

FLORIDA PRESBYTERY

**ASSOCIATE REFORMED
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**



FALL PRESBYTERY STATED MEETING

TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

TAMPA, FLORIDA

OCTOBER 28, 2014

Florida Presbytery Stated Meeting

October 28, 2014

Trinity Presbyterian Church – Tampa, Florida

Presbytery began with worship at 10:00 am. It was led by the Rev. Jac Coad. The sacrament of the Lord's Supper was observed. An offering of \$170 was received for the Morrison Student Aid Fund.

Moderator David Walkup called the meeting to order with a Psalm and prayer at 11:15 am.

Guests were welcomed by the Moderator.

A welcome was given by the host pastor.

The Agenda was adopted as amended to include Communications from the Clerk after the Treasurer's Report. **M/S/C**

The **minutes** of the April 22, 2014 stated meeting, and the June 10, 2014 called meeting, were approved as submitted.

The Moderator appointed a committee to review Sessional Records during lunch: Mike Avato, Chad Reynolds, Paul Benner

A quorum was established as being present.

Mrs. Anne Adrian addressed the Presbytery, sharing her testimony: birth in Iraq into a missionary family. She now works with International Students Incorporated, sharing the gospel with international university students. She recommended the book, Understand My Muslim People, by Dr. Abraham Sarker.

Dr. Christopher Wisdom, VP of Erskine Theological Seminary addressed the Presbytery. SACS addressed two key issues, academic concerns that are being addressed, and financial stability. They have to June 30, 2015 to retire an approximately \$1.5 million debt. And then other financial stability issues. Requested prayer.

Mr. Chip Sherer, Executive Director, Bonclarken, addressed the Presbytery. Encouraging presbyters to make use of the assembly grounds for camps, conferences and retreats for evangelism and spiritual renewal. He gave a brief history of the providential acquiring of what became Bonclarken, noting the contributions and leadership of leaders from Florida. He noted the preparation being made to host the concurrent Synod meetings

Mr. Steve Auld, from Columbia International University, a RE from First, Columbia, and working with World Witness to start a university in the Yucatan of Mexico. The buildings have been built. He is developing the curriculum, and help recruit professors and students.

Presbytery broke for lunch, with prayer, at noon.

Business resumed at 1:05 pm with prayer.

Treasurer Steve Richardson gave his report. He particularly mentioned that it was time to appoint a new Treasurer, and that the Nominations Committee would do that for the Spring meeting. He

mentioned the need move to have and insure proper oversight and incorporation as a particular entity.

Andy Hunt to help in process of incorporation. **MSC**

Motion that \$25k from the Florida Presbytery general fund be given to Erskine Theological Seminary general fund. MSC

Prayer was offered for Erskine College and Theological Seminary, led by Ray Cameron.

First Reading of Changes to the *Form of Government* regarding Board of Benefits recommendations, approved by the Executive Committee of the General Synod in 2012.

First Reading of Changes to the *Westminster Confession of Faith*, regarding removal of chapters XXXIV & XXXV.

Report of Synod Executive Board by Darrell Peer... He particularly noted that there is a great need for instruction and learning of church polity among both TE & RE. He also noted that the Special Committee Regarding Sexual Abuse and Misconduct Policy recommends the General Synod not adopt a uniform policy on sexual abuse, misconduct and child abuse, nor direct local churches to adopt policies. The reason behind the recommendation is the challenges of presenting something in conformity across states as well as with Canada. Each congregation should be encouraged to do as they see fit.

Nominations Committee report by Jac Coad. No recommendations. MSC to receive the report as a whole.

Church Extension Committee report by Mark Bolhofner. No recommendations. Updates from Mission Developers, **Charlie Lewis** (Christ Community); **Bob Hovey** (SonLife); **Jac Coad** (Tampa Chinese PC) – about ready to organize; **Steve Reynolds** (Renew) – a video on the work. ONA Board Chairman **Wes Spring** gave a brief report and mentioned that the Mission Developers gathering will be hosted at the beach in Jacksonville. **Mike Jones** (ONA Executive Director) reported on the work and emphasis of ONA, as well as his own making the adjustment of the transition to the area and the new work. **MSC** to receive report as a whole.

Prayer was offered for Florida Presbytery Mission Developers and these works, led by Wes Spring.

Minister and His Work Committee report by Drew Severance. Recommendations:

1) Matt Sboto – approve the transfer of his sponsoring church session from Avon Park to Lake Placid **MSC**

2) Mike Jones – approve the dissolution of his pastoral relationship with Hope (Tampa), effective July 31, 2014 **MSC**

3) Approve the Call to Mike Jones to serve as the Executive Director of Outreach North America **MSC**

4) Hope (Tampa) – approve TE/Associate Pastor Tom Edwards to serve as interim moderator and stated pulpit supply (12 month maximum) **MSC**

5) Avon Park – approve retired TE Edward Fleagle to

serve as interim moderator and stated pulpit supply (12 month maximum) – pending communication of the Clerk of Florida Presbytery with the Clerk of First Presbytery confirming their consent to Rev. Fleagle operating outside of the bounds of First Presbytery **MSC**

6) Bill McClain – receive him into the Florida Presbytery and approve the terms of his Call to serve with Evangelism Explosion **MSC**

January 11, 2015 commissioning at First Church West, Tamarac, FL
It was noted that this is a part-time call. He is also retired, and working part-time for a church staff on evangelism. He was examined by Bob Hovey in regards to theological beliefs and gave his personal testimony.

7) Approve the sermon preached by Mr. Tim Sewell as a specimen of his progress **MSC**

The report was received as a whole. **MSC**

Christian Education Committee report by Andrew Shoger. Christian Education Ministries (CEM) is now incorporated. He noted that the speaker for the Winter Retreat is now Scott Sjoblom. A Combined Disciple Makers Equipping Conference/Elder & Deacon training conference is scheduled for April 11, 2015 at Lake Wales. He requested feedback today as to what would be helpful for churches.

1) That the \$3,000 line item approved for Camp Joy in 2014 be reaffirmed for 2015 with the moneys being designated for the Camp Joy General Fund. **MSC**

2) That members of Presbytery continue to promote and support the work of Florida Christian Education Committee within their congregations. **MSC**

Stewardship Committee report by David Walkup. **Budget Presentation** description noted that there is a difference between what Christian Education is requesting (\$9500) and what is provided by the current assessment to churches per active member (\$6/each).

1) Include under the income portion of the proposed 2015 budget \$5,000 from the Presbytery general account. And that the Stewardship Committee investigate the impact of the changes to active membership calculations in accord with the new *FoG* and report back to the Presbytery any recommendations in light of these changes. **MSC**

2) Approve the 2015 Budget of Florida Presbytery. **MSC**

Moderator David Walkup be approved to appoint an ad hoc committee to take whatever actions are necessary to assure the incorporation of the Florida Presbytery and take care of the transfer of funds and establishment of the accountability procedures for the Treasurer, as were approved by the June 2014 meeting of the Presbytery. **MSC** [ad hoc committee: David Walkup, Andy Hunt, Charlie Lewis, Steve Richardson]

Missions Liason report given by Mike Jones. He especially noted the changes going on with Frank van Dalen's plans to serve with the Reformed Church in Lithuania. The change to Alex Pettit's transition to Director of World Witness. And the providential and strategic location of WW missionaries in Turkey with the Yazidi people. A video was shared by Eric Meberg regarding the need and opportunity. This video will not be on line but is available to churches.

Prayer for the ministry to the Yazidi was led by Bill McClain.

Announcements were given regarding the need for presbyters to update email addresses. Encouragement to urge church members to vote next week. And Lake Placid signs being prepared urging Christians to stand with the persecuted church globally.

Moderator Walkup adjourned the meeting in prayer at 3:40 pm., including needs expressed throughout the meeting of presbytery.

Attendance:

Teaching Elders: Bobby Adams, Kent Adrian, Mike Avato, Mark Bolhofner, Ray Cameron, Jac Coad, Tom Edwards, Buzzy Elder, Bob Hovey, Matt Joldersma, Mike Jones, Charlie Lewis, Darrell Peer, Chad Reynolds, Steve Reynolds, Dennis Rupert, Drew Severance, Andrew Shoger, David Walkup

Excused Teaching Elders: Chris Hardeman, Bob Johnson, Bryan Jurkowski, John Kim, Rob Patrick, Kim Payne, David Rockness, Tim Wohlers

Absent Teaching Elders: Jun Jian (Jeff) Liu, Michael Payne

Students Under Care: John “Brooks” Pipher (Chapel-by-the-Sea), Karl Davis (Lake Placid)

Excused Student Under Care: Jonathan Mikule (Trinity), Matthew Sbotto (Avon Park)

Ruling Elders: Richard Miller (Avon Park), W. A. Read, Jr. (Bartow), Randall Anderson (Chapel-by-the-Sea), Steve Richardson (Faith, Merritt Island), James Carroll, Karl Davis, (Lake Placid), V. Paul Benner (Lake Wales), Ted Stitzer (North Creek), Tom Carrow (Trinity)

Guests: Steve Richardson (Treasurer), Richard Rucker, Timothy Sewell (Lake Placid), Bill McLain (Evangelism Explosion), Retired TE Edward Fleagle (First Presbytery, stated supply Avon Park)

October 28, 2014

Trinity Presbyterian Church, Tampa, Florida

9:30 am Registration & Fellowship

10:00 Worship
Mr. Timothy Sewell

Rev. Jac Coad

Call to Order – Moderator David Walkup

Roll Call

Recognition of Guests

Communications from the Clerk

Comments from host pastor

Adoption of Agenda

Approval of Minutes (April 22 & June 10, 2014)

Appointment of Moderator’s Committee on Sessional Records

Greetings from Dr. Chris Wisdom, VP, Erskine Theological Seminary

Greetings from Mr. Chip Sherer, Ex. Director, Bonclarken

Report of the Presbytery Council

Noon Lunch

1:00 pm Treasurer’s Report
Communications from the Clerk

First Reading of Changes to the *Form of Government* regarding Board of Benefits recommendations, approved by the Executive Committee of the General Synod in 2012

First Reading of Changes to the *Westminster Confession of Faith*, regarding removal of chapters XXXIV & XXXV

Synod Executive Board – Darrell Peer

Business/Committee Reports

Nominations

Church Extension
Minister and His Work
Christian Education

Stewardship
Missions Liaison

Unfinished Business (if necessary)

Old Business

New Business

Announcements

Next Stated Meetings: April 28, 2015 - Lake Wales

October 27, 2015 – Lake Placid

Adjourn with Prayer & Psalm 133

Session Records to be examined: Bartow, Christ Community, Christ Presbyterian, Frostproof, Hope, Lake Wales, North Creek, Renew Church, Sebring, Shepherd Road, SonLife, Tampa Chinese

Presbytery Council Minutes

October 9, 2014 – 10:00 a.m.

The meeting was held at the First Presbyterian Church, Lake Wales. David Walkup opened with prayer at 10:15.

Present: Andrew Shoger, Jac Coad, David Walkup, Ray Cameron

Speakerphone: Mark Bolhofner

Excused: Drew Severance

Absent: Steve Richardson

The Council met to plan the Fall Stated Meeting of the Florida Presbytery, to be held at Trinity Presbyterian Church, Tampa.

Registration and fellowship will begin at 9:30 a.m.

Worship, including the Lord's Supper, will be led by Rev. Jac Coad, beginning at 10:00.

Invitations will be extended to Dr. Chris Wisdom, Vice-President of Erskine Theological Seminary; and to Mr. Chip Sherer, Executive Director of Bonclarken, to address the Florida Presbytery.

The Minutes of the April 22nd and June 10th meetings of the Florida Presbytery will be presented for approval.

The following **Session Records are to be examined** at the Fall Meeting: *Bartow, Christ Community, Christ Presbyterian, Frostproof, Hope, Lake Wales, North Creek, Renew Church, Sebring, Shepherd Road, SonLife, Tampa Chinese.*

There will be a First Reading regarding changes to the *Form of Government* that were approved by action of the Executive Committee of the General Synod after a lack of quorum at the latter portion of the 2012 meeting of the General Synod prevented the hearing of a report of the Board of Benefits that was deemed to be of an essential nature.

There will be a First Reading of the changes to the *Westminster Confession of Faith* regarding the removal of chapters XXXIV (*Of the Holy Spirit*) and XXXV (*Of the Gospel*) that occurred at the 2014 meeting of the General Synod.

Both changes will be put to a vote at the Spring Meeting of the Florida Presbytery, April 2015.

The Treasurer's report will be planned for immediately after lunch.

Ray Cameron will check with Darrell Peer to see if he is still serving on Synod's Executive Board, and if he has anything to report to the Presbytery. If so, he will be given a place on the agenda.

Business will be considered from all the Committees of the Florida Presbytery. Reports will be distributed via email before the meeting of the Presbytery, as they are received.

The next Stated Meetings of the Florida Presbytery are scheduled for: April 28, 2015 in Lake Wales; and October 27, 2015 in Lake Placid.

It was requested that the Clerk send out an updated roster of the membership of the Florida Presbytery.

The Council adjourned with prayer led by Jac Coad at 11:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ray Cameron, Clerk

Florida Presbytery
Fall Stated Meeting
October 28, 2014

Treasurer's Report

There is, which is always good news, little to report. The Christian Education Committee, the Home Missions Committee, and the John H. Ball fund accounted for almost all of the activity.

A balance sheet and budget comparison are attached.

After the Spring Stated Meeting the treasurer received forms for investing the excess Presbytery funds. There were several questions and decisions that could not, or should not, be responded to by an ex officio officer. Committee action would be more appropriate for the amount of funds involved. Treasurer spoke with Mr. Bell, who oversees the investment program, and he agreed there should be officers involved in the process.

The treasurer has long since exceeded the allowed term of office, and should be retired, or at least put on sabbatical, if not to pasture. There needs be a transition. It will not be difficult, but should be planned ahead. Software compatibility, passwords, secret handshakes--those need to be arranged. The transfer will not be in a cardboard box this time, (well, there will be a few things) though treasurer still has the original cardboard box and its contents.

There are many documents from the closing of two congregations, payroll for the time Presbytery had responsibility of a pastor, some data files from those congregations which should probably not be in a file cabinet in someone's home.

Some recommendations to be considered, though not necessarily acted upon at this meeting:

1. A different bank location more accessible to the majority of Presbytery.
2. More persons with access and oversight to the bookkeeping system and the bank account.
3. An observation I have no suggestion for: Florida Presbytery currently resides at the Treasurer's address.

I have been honored and humbled by the responsibilities you have entrusted to me.

Steve Richardson
Treasurer

1605 Neptune Drive
Merritt Island FL 32952
321-960-8220

8:35 AM
 10/16/14
 Accrual Basis

**Florida Presbytery
 Balance Sheet
 As of October 14, 2014**

| | Oct 14, 14 |
|--|-------------------|
| ASSETS | |
| Current Assets | |
| Checking/Savings | |
| Coastal Checking 11730 | 28,024.46 |
| Coastal Money Market 14171 | 67,023.95 |
| Total Checking/Savings | 95,048.41 |
| Accounts Receivable | |
| Assessment | 12,695.00 |
| Total Accounts Receivable | 12,695.00 |
| Other Current Assets | |
| Undeposited Funds | 875.00 |
| Total Other Current Assets | 875.00 |
| Total Current Assets | 108,618.41 |
| TOTAL ASSETS | 108,618.41 |
| LIABILITIES & EQUITY | |
| Liabilities | |
| Current Liabilities | |
| Other Current Liabilities | |
| John H. Ball III Scholarship | 18,965.81 |
| Morrison Student Fund | 7,458.22 |
| Parkway Church | 21,720.05 |
| Winter Retreats | 453.00 |
| Total Other Current Liabilities | 48,597.08 |
| Total Current Liabilities | 48,597.08 |
| Total Liabilities | 48,597.08 |
| Equity | |
| Opening Bal Equity | 14,940.80 |
| Retained Earnings | 32,489.77 |
| Net Income | 12,590.76 |
| Total Equity | 60,021.33 |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY | 108,618.41 |

10/15/14

**Florida Presbytery
 Budget Comparison
 January 1 through October 15, 2014**

| | Jan 1 - Oct 15, 14 | Budget | % of Budget |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|------------------|--------------|
| Ordinary Income/Expense | | | |
| Income | | | |
| Assessment Income | 14,034.00 | 16,335.25 | 85.9% |
| Total Income | 14,034.00 | 16,335.25 | 85.9% |
| Expense | | | |
| Administration | 158.37 | 200.00 | 79.2% |
| Christian Education | 5,280.74 | 9,500.00 | 55.6% |
| Church Extension | 9,400.00 | 9,400.00 | 100.0% |
| John Ball Scholarship | 2,838.00 | 3,878.00 | 73.2% |
| Minister & His Work | 0.00 | 625.00 | 0.0% |
| Missions | 0.00 | 50.00 | 0.0% |
| Nominations | 0.00 | 75.00 | 0.0% |
| Stewardship | 0.00 | 75.00 | 0.0% |
| Total Expense | 17,677.11 | 23,803.00 | 74.3% |
| Net Ordinary Income | -3,643.11 | -7,467.75 | 48.8% |
| Net Income | -3,643.11 | -7,467.75 | 48.8% |



Activity - Deposit Account

Report created: 10/16/2014 08:31:29 AM (ET)

Account Information

Account: *1730 • Checking • SMALL BUSINESS GRANDFATHERED • Available \$28,024.46
 Current balance: \$28,024.46
 Accessible balance: \$28,024.46
 Ledger balance: \$28,024.46

Transaction History

Date range: 9/16/2014 to 10/14/2014
 Transaction types: All transactions
 Detail option: Includes transaction detail

| Post Date | Reference | Additional Reference | Description | Debit | Credit | Calculated Balance |
|-----------|-----------|----------------------|-------------|-------|--------|--------------------|
|-----------|-----------|----------------------|-------------|-------|--------|--------------------|



Activity - Deposit Account

Report created: 10/16/2014 08:37:06 AM (ET)

Account Information

Account: *4171 • Savings • BUSINESS MONEY MARKET • Available \$67,023.95
 Current balance: \$67,023.95
 Accessible balance: \$67,023.95
 Ledger balance: \$67,023.95

Transaction History

Date range: 9/16/2014 to 10/14/2014
 Transaction types: All transactions
 Detail option: Includes transaction detail

| Post Date | Reference | Additional Reference | Description | Debit | Credit | Calculated Balance |
|------------|----------------|----------------------|-----------------|-------|--------|--------------------|
| 09/30/2014 | 00000000000000 | | INTEREST CREDIT | | \$8.26 | \$67,023.95 |

Report of the Nominations Committee to the Florida Presbytery Fall Meeting

October 28, 2014

Two appointments were made to the Presbytery Committees by the Presbytery Council.

- 1) Drew Severance's term on the Minister and His Work Committee was extended by one year (term to end at the end of June, 2015). Rev. Severance resigned from the Stewardship Committee.**
- 2) Mr. Keith Baker was appointed to the Stewardship Committee to replace Rev. Drew Severance.**

There is an attached copy of the current membership of all of the Florida Presbytery Committees which reflects recent changes.

Please prayerfully consider giving suggestions to the Nominations Committee for the next year before our meeting in February, 2015.

Thank you,



Report of the Church Extension Committee for 2014 fall stated meeting of the Florida Presbytery

Church Extension is involved with the work of church planting and church revitalization in the Florida Presbytery. Current members include Class of 2015 Bobby Adams, Dave Rockness, Class of 2016 Chad Reynolds, Darrell Peer, Ted Stitzer, Class of 2017 Mark Bolhofner, Frank Hunt, Jim Carroll,. The Director is Wes Spring.

The Committee met in Lake Placid on September 16 to discuss with Steve Reynolds the Renew church plant in Ft. Myers. ONA and Church Extension financial support is due to be completed, per the Renew church plant proposal budget, in December of this year.

The motion was made, seconded, and approved that Church Extension continue to support Renew at its present level of \$5,000 a quarter for six months, and to evaluate further support at that point. The motion also included asking ONA to consider at its fall Board meeting continuing its current level of support for six more months as well. Church Extension would also appeal to churches in the Florida Presbytery to continue, increase, or begin financial support for Renew at this critical time in its development.

Church Extension would like our mission developers (Jeff Liu, Charlie Lewis, Bob Hovey, and Steve Reynolds) to have the opportunity to give brief updates to the Presbytery at this meeting, and requests that Presbytery continue to pray for our

mission churches, the Tampa Chinese Presbyterian Church, Christ Community Church, SonLife Church, and the Renew Church. Please continue to pray also for new planters to be raised up and for new works to be started.

This report submitted by
Mark Bolhofner, Chairman

Minister & His Work Committee Report (Florida Presbytery; October 28, 2014)

For Information Only

- 1) By the April 2015 Presbytery meeting, Brooks Pipher and Tim Sewell plan to sit for their oral licensure and ordination exams, respectively.
- 2) Since the April 2014 Presbytery meeting, the Scholarship Committee has awarded \$1955.60 to seminary student, Karl Davis

Recommendations

- 1) **Matt Sboto** --- approve the transfer of his sponsoring church session from Avon Park ARP to Lake Placid ARP
- 2) **Mike Jones** --- approve his dissolution as pastor of Hope Tampa ARP and approve his call to minister out of bounds with Outreach North America
- 3) **Hope Tampa ARP** --- approve TE/Associate Pastor, Tom Edwards, to serve as interim moderator and stated pulpit supply (12 months maximum)
- 4) **Avon Park ARP** --- approve retired, TE Ed Fleagle, to serve as interim moderator and stated pulpit supply (12 months maximum)
- 5) **Bill McClain** --- receive him into the Presbytery and accept his call from Evangelism Explosion

Encouragement/Prayer Needs

- 1) Pastors seeking calls --- Tim Wohlers (386-689-9590)
- 2) Military chaplains --- Chris Reeder (christopher.reeder@misawa.af.mil)
- 3) Churches seeking pastors --- Avon Park, Christ Presbyterian (Bradenton), and Hope (North Tampa)
- 4) Existing seminary students under care:
 - a) Joe Carvajal (813-285-3637)
 - b) Karl Davis (863-840-2114)
 - c) Ed Gardner (813-404-9049)
 - d) Jonathan Mikule (352-232-5133)

e) Brooks Pipher (803-767-6770)

f) Matt Sboto (631-291-5230)

Respectfully Submitted: Drew Severance (Chairman)

Report of the Christian Education Committee
2014 Stated Fall Meeting of the
Florida Presbytery

The Christian Education Committee met on Thursday, September 11, 2014 at First Presbyterian Church of Lake Wales.

Significant matters of information include:

- Plans for the 2015 Middle & High School Winter Retreat were received. The dates are January 16-18, 2015. *Speaker: Jason Cook. Band: The Ransomed.*
- Camp Joy FL hosted 26 campers, 27 counselors, and 13 staff members during 2014. They are projecting a slight increase in those numbers for 2015 and look forward to two new housing facilities being ready at Lake Aurora Christian Camp in time for next year's camp.
- Christian Education Ministries is hosting a fundraiser on Nov. 7 in Winter Haven, FL to help establish an endowment for Camp Joy. Each minister should be receiving an invitation and is asked to pass this information along to members of their church who might be interested in partnering with Camp Joy in this manner.
- A planning committee for the Juniors Retreat is being assembled by Andrew Shoger and Emma Pike. The committee plans to offer this retreat in February 2015.
- A combined CEM training conference comprised of Elder/Deacon Training and a Disciple Makers Equipping Conference has been planned for Saturday, April 11, 2015. In an effort to tailor fit the Elder/Deacon training, ministers of the Presbytery will be contacted regarding what needs they feel their church officers may have. First Presbyterian Church of Lake Wales will host this event.

Recommendations:

1. That the 2014 budget amount for CEC (\$9500) be renewed for 2015.
2. That the \$3000 line item approved for Camp Joy Florida in 2014 be reaffirmed for 2015 with the moneys being designated for the Camp Joy General Fund.
3. That members of Presbytery continue to promote and support the work of FL CEC within their congregations.

Respectfully Submitted,
Andrew Shoger , Chairman