

FLORIDA PRESBYTERY

**ASSOCIATE REFORMED
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**



**FALL PRESBYTERY STATED MEETING
NORTHCREEK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
COCONUT CREEK, FLORIDA**

OCTOBER 22, 2013

Florida Presbytery Stated Meeting

October 22, 2013

North Creek Presbyterian Church – Coconut Creek, Florida

Presbytery began with worship at 10:00 am. It was led by the Rev. Mark Balhofner. The sacrament of the Lord's Supper was observed.

Moderator Richard Rucker called the meeting to order with prayer at 11:05 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 23, 2013 stated meeting, and the June 11, 2013 called meeting, were approved as submitted.

The Moderator appointed a committee to review Sessional Records during lunch: Darrell Peer and Bob Hovey.

The Presbytery Council report was given by the Clerk, noting the stated meetings for 2014 have been set for Bartow in the spring, and Trinity in the fall. The Council also invited the Rev. Billy Barron to give a presentation on the Form of Government revision.

Rev. Billy Barron gave a report on the Form of Government revision, and fielded a number of questions.

Rev. Barron gave an update on World Witness ministry and needs.

The Treasurer's Report was presented by Steve Richardson. The report was received as information. **M/S/C**

The funds in the Presbytery account that came from the Parkway/Pleasant Hill property should be transferred to the Florida Church Extension account. Approximately \$21,000. **M/S/C**

The Presbytery requests that the Investment Committee of the General Synod be approached regarding a way to receive a better return on Presbytery funds. The Presbytery Treasurer is given authority to discuss this with an Investment Committee representative. The Stewardship Committee will work with the Treasurer and the Synod Investment Committee representative to prepare a plan and then act on moving the agreed funds for investment. **M/S/C**

The Clerk passed on communications that have been received since the last meeting of the Presbytery.

After prayer led by Wes Spring, presbytery adjourned for lunch.

The Morrison Student Aid offering today was \$262.

Elder Wes Spring, the Chairman of ONA, presented an update on both Outreach North America and on Florida Presbytery's church plants.

Rob Patrick presented the report of the **Nominations Committee**. It included a full list of the membership of each Presbytery Committee and the officers of the Florida Presbytery. The committee requested that nominations be submitted to them to help them prepare the best possible slate of people for the nominations at the spring meeting. The report was received as a whole.

Andrew Shoger presented the report of the **Christian Education Committee**. **Two recommendations were approved.**

1. That the \$3,000 line item approved for Camp Joy Florida in 2013 be reaffirmed for 2014 with the monies being designated for the Camp Joy General Fund.
2. That each minister promote and encourage his church to participate in the various Christian Education opportunities offered in the coming year.

The report of the Christian Education Committee was received as a whole.

Mark Bolhofner reported for the **Church Extension Committee**. He requested that mission developers present be given the floor to briefly report on their work and request particular prayer as well. Reports were given by Charlie Lewis, Bob Hovey and Steve Reynolds. The report was approved as submitted.

Bob Johnson reported that the **Stewardship Committee** had met but did not have a quorum. He noted that the General Synod's Board of Stewardship had also lacked a quorum for their last meeting. The committee had no recommendations. The report was received as submitted.

The **Mission Liaison** report was presented by David Walkup, who also answered questions regarding the work of World Witness.

The **Minister & His Work** report was presented by Drew Severance. He noted that the committee had received updates from some of the students under care. And that \$2,500 from the Dr. John H. Ball Scholarship Fund was awarded to Brooks Pipher, a student at Erskine, Columbia campus. **One recommendation was approved.**

1. Approve changes to the Dr. John H. Ball Scholarship Fund. These changes consist of:

- a. Original (scholarships given in the amount of \$250, \$500, and \$1,000 annually) versus recommended change (maximum annual award is \$2,500).
- b. Minor tweaks to the application which serves to collect additional information from the applicant.

The report was received as a whole.

The committee on **Sessional Records** reviewed Minutes from four congregations during lunch. The following minutes reviewed and approved: Bartow, Christ Community, Frostproof, and North Creek.

During New Business it was decided that a Special Committee to make revisions to the Presbytery *Manual of Procedure* is needed. The Clerk was asked to head that committee. It was requested that the Chairman of each committee of the Presbytery consider their work in the light of the *MoP* and make recommendations for needed changes.

The General Synod's proposed new *Book of Discipline* was discussed. The deadline was noted for further feedback to be submitted to them for consideration as the revision continues.

The Fall Stated Meeting of the Florida Presbytery adjourned with prayer.

Attendance:

Teaching Elders: Bobby Adams, Kent Adrian, Mike Avato, Mark Bolhofner, Ray Cameron, Jac Coad, Buzzy Elder, Bob Hovey, Bob Johnson, Matt Joldersma, Charlie Lewis, Rob Patrick, Darrell Peer, Chad Reynolds, Steve Reynolds, David Rockness, Drew Severance, Andrew Shoger, David Walkup

Excused Teaching Elders: Chris Hardeman, Mike Jones, Bryan Jurkowski, Jun Jian (Jeff) Liu, Kim Payne, Michael Payne, Dennis Rupert, Tim Wohlers

Absent Teaching Elders: John Kim

Excused Student Under Care: Jonathan Mikule (Trinity), John "Brooks" Pipher (Chapel-by-the-Sea), Matthew Sbotto (Avon Park)

Ruling Elders: Richard Rucker (Moderator, Lake Placid), Richard Miller (Avon Park), Ernie Cooper (Bartow), Frank Miller (Chapel-by-the-Sea), Michael Noel, Wes Spring, (Lake Placid), V. Paul Benner (Lake Wales), Ted Stitzer (North Creek), Tom Carrow (Trinity)

Guests: Steve Richardson (Treasurer), Michael Sweat (youth director, Frostproof), Rev. Billy Barron (FOG, World Witness), Steve Nichols (ARP Foundation), David Perron (Tradewinds), Ken Reid and Larry Wynberg (Safe Harbor Community Church, Ft. Myers)

Respectfully submitted,

Raymond W. Cameron, Jr.
Clerk

Florida Presbytery Agenda

October 22, 2013

North Creek Presbyterian Church

Coconut Creek, Florida

9:30 am Registration & Fellowship

10:00 Worship

Rev. Mark

Balhofner

Call to Order – Moderator Richard Rucker

Roll Call

Recognition of Guests

Comments from host pastor

Adoption of Agenda

Approval of Minutes (April 23, 2013)

Appointment of Moderator's Committee on Sessional Records

Report of the Presbytery Council

Form of Government Revision – Rev. Billy Barron

Noon

Lunch

1:00 pm

Treasurer's Report

Communications from the Clerk

Church Extension/Outreach North America Update – Elder Wes Spring

Business/Committee Reports

Nominations

Christian Education

Church Extension

Stewardship

Missions Liaison

Minister and His Work Committee

Unfinished Business (if necessary)

Old Business

New Business

Special Committee for Presbytery Manual of Procedure Revisions

Book of Discipline Revision Discussion

Announcements

Next Stated Meeting: April 22, 2014

Bartow, FL

Adjourn with Prayer & Psalm 133

Session Records to be examined: Avon Park, Bartow, Christ Presbyterian, Christ Community, Faith (Merritt Island), Frostproof, Grace, Hope, Lake Placid, North Creek, Renew Church, Tampa Chinese.

Psalm 133 (*Psalm of Christian Unity*)

Presbytery Council Minutes

September 26, 2013 – 10:00 a.m.

The meeting was held via conference call. Moderator Richard Rucker opened the meeting with prayer.

Present: Mark Bolhofner, Drew Severance, Andrew Shoger, Rob Patrick, Richard Rucker, Ray Cameron

Excused: Steve Richardson

The October 22, 2013 meeting of the Florida Presbytery will be hosted by North Creek. It will begin at 10:00 a.m. Registration and fellowship at 9:30.

Mark Bolhofner & North Creek will plan and lead the morning worship, including preparation for the Lord's Supper. An offering will be received for the Morrison Student Aid fund. Student John "Brooks" Pipher will preach his senior sermon. Rev. Bolhofner will preach if we do not have a student sermon.

Lunch will be provided by North Creek and will be scheduled for noon.

The Clerk requested that Committee reports be emailed to the Clerk to distribute to the Presbytery with the notice for the meeting. Presbytery Rules of Procedure call for chairmen to submit written reports to the Presbytery Council for deliberation prior to sending them to the Presbytery. Deadline for getting reports to the Clerk to include in the notice is October 4, 2013. (A report from Nominations Committee was submitted.)

The Church Extension Committee will meet on October 8 and then will send a report. They are requested to have each Mission Developer speak to the Presbytery, updating on their work and needs.

The Christian Education is seeking to resolve one issue and will then submit their report.

The Nominations Committee report will include the current makeup of each Presbytery committee. It was noted that the Minister and His Work Committee will be changing three members in the spring, requesting prayer for that committee in a rather significant transition of membership.

The Minister and His Work Committee will confirm whether there will be a theological examination for Mr. Pipher at the Fall meeting. A report will be submitted.

The Presbytery Manual of Procedure is in need of some revisions, such as the procedure for the nominating of Ruling Elders to serve as Moderator of the Presbytery; Scholarship Fund policies; a policy for the nomination of Florida Presbytery representatives to Synod Boards and Committees that reserve a Presbytery slot, but it is not filled ex officio by the chairman of a particular Presbytery committee in its corresponding Synod committee or board. The Council would like the chairman of each Presbytery Committee

to review their section of the Manual of Procedure, perhaps with their committee, and make recommendations for its updating. It is likely that a Special Committee will be appointed to oversee the Manual of Procedure review and revision.

The revised Book of Discipline of the General Synod will be presented as a first reading. It will be recommended that each Session carefully review it in preparation for its consideration at the Spring 2014 Stated meeting. The Clerk, Ray Cameron, will investigate whether a member of the Synod committee that prepared the revision might be available to answer questions or point out key changes.

The revised Form of Government will be discussed at the October 2013 meeting. The Clerk will invite the Rev. Billy Barron, chairman of the revision committee, to attend the meeting to answer questions and lead a discussion through key changes.

The Clerk will include in the email to Teaching Elders of the Presbytery regarding the Fall 2013 meeting that they and the Ruling Elders who will attend this meeting be strongly encouraged to read both the former, and the new, Form of Government and the Book of Discipline, in order to be familiar with the changes and to be prepared for discussion.

Elder Wes Spring, Florida Presbytery's agent for mission development, and chairman of the ONA Board, will be granted time to address the Presbytery. **M/S/C**

The **2014 meetings** of the Florida Presbytery be held at the Bartow ARPC on April 22, and the October 28 meeting be held at the Trinity ARPC in Tampa. **M/S/C**

The Spring 2014 meeting of the Presbytery Council will be held in person, probably in Avon Park, if they are able to provide a meeting room. Tentatively **April 1 at 10:00 am**.

The meeting was closed with prayer, led by Rob Patrick.
Respectfully submitted, Ray Cameron, Clerk

A map to North Creek is available through their website:
www.northcreekpresbyterianchurch.org. A map can be accessed by clicking on the "Find Us" tab at the top of the page.

Report of the Committee on Nominations Fall 2013

Dear Brothers,

The fall is not a busy season for your Committee on Nominations, for unless there are vacated terms which must be filled, it is in the spring of the year that new committee members are elected by the Presbytery. That said, our work will be greatly helped if you will notice the upcoming vacancies in 2014 and begin thinking as to whom you might have in your churches who would serve the Presbytery well in our areas of need.

The vacancies that must be filled next spring are as follows:

- (1) Ruling Elder for Church Extension
- (1) Teaching Elder for Nominations
- (1) Ruling Elder and (2) Teaching Elders for Minister and His Work
- (2) for Stewardship
- (1) representative to World Witness
- (1) Ruling Elder for Vice-Moderator to secede Kim Payne as Moderator in 2015.

All other vacancies for 2014 can be filled by those currently serving 1st terms.

Please give careful attention to this matter, as it is very important for the life of our Presbytery. Our committees must function well for our Presbytery to function well, and this requires committed, capable members.

Please find included herewith a copy of all committee rosters. Chairman, please give special attention to your committee rosters to insure accuracy, and that all listed are being contacted prior to meetings.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rob Patrick, Committee Chair

Florida Presbytery Committees

(Current Fall 2013)

Christian Education

Name	Church	Class	Term
Buzzy Elder	Frostproof	2014	1st
Amy Hardy	Bartow	2014	1st
Emma Pike	Lake Wales	2014	1st
Matt Joldersma	Lake Wales	2015	2nd
Tom Edwards	Hope	2015	2nd
Kim Payne	Grace	2015	2nd
Matt Didway	Shepherd Road	2016	1st
Andrew Shoger	Bartow	2016	2nd
Jeff Liu	Tampa Chinese	2016	2nd

Church Extension

Name	Church	Class	Term
Mike Avato	Tradewinds	2014	2nd
Mark Bolhofner	North Creek	2014	1st
Rudy Seiffer	Faith, MI	2014	1st
Bobby Adams	Faith, MI	2015	2nd
Dave Rockness	Retired	2015	1st
Darrell Peer	Sebring	2016	2nd
Chad Reynolds	Lake Wales	2016	2nd
Ted Stitzer	North Creek	2016	2nd

Nominations

Name	Church	Class
Rob Patrick	Bartow	2014
Pat Frankenburger	Lake Wales	2015
Charlie Lewis	Christ Community	2016
Wes Spring	Lake Placid	2017

Minister and His Work

Name	Church	Class	Term
Drew Severance	Lake Placid	2014	2nd
Bryan Jurkowski	Christ	2014	2nd
Don Luckie	Shepherd Road	2014	2nd

Max Linton	Lake Wales	2015	2nd
Dennis Rupert	Morning Star	2015	1st
David Walkup	Chapel by the Sea	2015	1st
Chris Hardeman	Faith, Oxford	2016	2nd
Don Bates	Lake Placid	2016	1st
Hugh Crawford	Bartow	2016	1st

Stewardship

Name	Church	Class	Term
Steve Richardson	Faith, MI	Treasurer	ex-officio
Hugh Veley	Lake Placid	2014	2nd
Bob Johnson	Avon Park	2014	2nd
Mike Jones	Hope	2015	1st
Steve Lassiter	Bartow	2015	2nd
Kent Adrian	Shepherd Road	2016	2nd
Randy Bunn	Chapel by the Sea	2016	2nd

Principal Clerk

Name	Church	Class
Ray Cameron	Lake Placid	2015

Reading Clerk

Name	Church	Class	Term
Brian Jurkowski	Christ	2015	2nd

Dunlap Board Representative

Name	Church	Class	Term
Darrell Peer	Sebring	2015	2nd

World Witness Board Representative

Name	Church	Class	Term
David Walkup	Chapel by the Sea	2014	2nd

Executive Committee

Name	Church	Class
Richard Rucker (Mod)	Lake Placid	2014
Kim Payne (VMod)	Grace	2015

Report of the Christian Education Committee

2013 Stated Fall Meeting of the

Florida Presbytery

The Christian Education Committee met on Thursday, August 22, 2013 via teleconference. Plans for the 2014 Winter Retreats for Middle and High School students were approved. These retreats will be combined into one weekend this year, the dates of which are January 17-19, 2014. The Juniors Retreat

(3rd-5th graders and parents) will be offered once again in the Spring of 2014, with dates TBA. Camp Joy Florida will be held at Lake Aurora Conference Center March 23-28.

In addition to these matters of information, the Committee brings the following recommendations to the Presbytery:

1. That the \$3000 line item approved for Camp Joy Florida in 2013 be reaffirmed for 2014 with the moneys being designated for the Camp Joy General Fund.
2. That each minister promote and encourage his church to participate in the various Christian Education opportunities offered in the coming year.

Respectfully Submitted,

Andrew Shoger
Chairman

Report of the Stewardship Committee

The Stewardship Committee met via phone conference on October 8. Unfortunately, we did not have a quorum. Bob Johnson reported on the meeting of the Synod's Board of Stewardship which also did not have a quorum.

In both cases, of course, no action was taken, but information was received that will be shared at the meeting of the Presbytery.

No recommendations which need action at this time.

Bob Johnson,
Chairman, Stewardship Committee

Minister & His Work Committee Report

Florida Presbytery
October 22, 2013

Information Items

1) The committee has received updates from several of the students under care. These same students were prayed for over the phone.

1) Since the April 2013 presbytery meeting, the following Dr. John H. Ball Scholarship has been awarded: Brooks Pipher (\$2,500)

2) The committee has had preliminary discussions with two pastors who are exploring the possibility of transferring into Florida Presbytery.

3) The committee continues to implement restructuring changes that involve several sub-committees.

Recommendations

1) Approve changes to the Dr. John H. Ball Scholarship Fund. These changes consist of:

a) Original (scholarships given in the amount of \$250, \$500, and \$1,000 annually) versus recommended change (maximum annual award is \$2,500).

b) Minor tweaks to the application which serve to collect additional information from the applicant.

Respectfully Submitted,

Drew Severance

Chairman

Report of the Church Extension Committee for the 2013 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 2014 Mark Bolhofner, Rudy Seiffer, Mike Avato, Class of 2015 Bobby Adams, Dave Rockness, Class of 2016 Chad Reynolds, Darrell Peer, Ted Stitzer. The Director is Wes Spring.

Church Extension would like our mission developers (Jeff Liu, Charlie Lewis, Bob Hovey, and Steve Reynolds) 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.

Attached please find the report requested by motion of the Presbytery at its June 2013 Synod meeting.

As regards the discussion at that meeting, as reflected in its minutes, “concerning the need to develop a clear policy regarding the decision of a Mission Developer to conclude a work,” and the request to “clarify the procedures for approval of significant changes and work on the field of church plants,” the attached report underscores that the Committee has been given the duties and responsibilities to handle all such matters, for which there might not be a policy or procedure, as they arise.

Mission Developers, for example, do not “conclude” a work – that is the decision of the Church Extension Committee, per the *Manual of Procedure*. In the recent case of the Compass mission, the Committee concluded there was not a sufficient core group to continue the work. As regards the Rev. Tom Schneider, who quit and took another call, the Committee faced a situation that had never come before it, to our recollection, but functioning according to the duties and responsibilities assigned the Committee, it worked through the process and arrived at a consensus conclusion that was gracious and in the best interest of Presbytery and the cause of Christ.

We did determine from the experience that in the future we would purpose to add to an intern’s, resident’s, or planter’s call, that if he should quit or take another call while fulfilling the terms of his call from Florida Presbytery, that the Florida Presbytery’s financial obligation to him would end, and that without a severance obligation.

This report submitted by
Mark Bolhofner
Chairman

**Report of the lines of authority, and responsibility in our church planting structure,
including the Church Extension Committee, provisional sessions, and the Director, per
request of the Florida Presbytery at its 2013 Synod meeting**

The Florida Presbytery *Manual of Procedure* states that among the specific duties and responsibilities of the Church Extension Committee are the following:

- To initiate and oversee the location, planning, organization, personnel, financing of and all other matters relating to new church developments within the boundaries of Presbytery.
- To oversee the work of existing church developments until they become organized churches.
- To act as a pastoral board in the oversight, counseling, training and nurturing of its mission developers and their families, and to hire, supervise, and release mission developers as needed.
- To hire a Director of Church Extension pending approval of Presbytery.

There is no specific mention in the *Manual of Procedure's* section on the Church Extension Committee of a provisional session, but, *F.O.G. XI.B.3* states that "Presbytery has the primary oversight responsibility for the mission. This responsibility is usually exercised through the presbytery committee charged with the responsibility for new church development. The provisional session has secondary oversight and is accountable to the presbytery committee."

These are the lines of authority, accountability, and responsibility followed in Florida Presbytery's church planting structure as regards the Church Extension Committee, provisional sessions, and the Director. Accordingly, the Committee hires the Director pending approval of the Presbytery, and per the job description approved by Presbytery, he reports directly to the Chairman of the Church Extension Committee. The Committee also takes responsibility for hiring, supervising, and releasing mission developers, and for the initiation and oversight of all matters relating to new church development – which includes seeing to the establishment of a provisional session for secondary oversight.

Mission Liaison Report
 Fall meeting of Florida Presbytery
 October 22, 2013 North Creek ARPC

The Board of World Witness met at the Greenville ARP Center October-1-2. The following are highlights of the meeting:

1) Presentations:

The Board heard from Rick Postma (of Word & Deed, a diaconal outreach which combines the mercy ministries of a number of smaller Reformed denominations); Rev. Moner Shaded (pastor of the Good Shepherd Reformed Church in Warsaw, Poland); and Lanier Ellis (retired ARP pastor working with International Students at UNC Charlotte).

2) Missionaries and Candidates:

(a) Approved James and Rachel Grant as missionaries to Asturias, Spain;

(b) Approved Michael and Laura Cochran as pre-candidates to serve an internship in the US before going to Spain.

(c) Approved Caitlin Munro as a cooperative missionary with Ignite, Wales (an inner city outreach ministry)

(d) Approved Walker and Heather Suits as pre-candidates to serve an internship in the US before going to the field (Germany and Turkey are currently being explored); and Lanier and Karen Ellis as Volunteers in Mission with International Students in Charlotte.

(e) The Board received an encouraging update from the Allers.

3) Strategy:

(a) Mexico: The Board approved continued discussions between Gene Kim, Steve Auld of CIU, and Tim Osterlund (WW Board) about the future involvement of WW in the Yucatan International University in Cenotillo.

(b) Pakistan: The Board endorsed the Mission and Vision of the Pak7 ministry in principle. Further exploration and practical steps will follow.

(c) Pakistan alternate field: \$2500 will be given towards the purchase of a house in High Wycombe, London, for World Harvest's ministry to Pakistani Muslims.

(d) WW will explore partnerships with the Evangelical Presbyterian Church as they seek to reach Pakistan.

(e) Europe will be divided into two regions bounded by the following cities: Western Europe (Berlin, Madrid/Oviedo, Cardiff); and Eastern Europe (Vilnius, Warsaw, Kiev). These regions share common histories and/or methods of ministry, as well as geographical proximity which will allow missionaries to support one another.

4) Finance:

(a) Approval of a partnership being developed with Word & Deed.

(b) A 2014 budget of \$4,102,764 was approved.

(c) A request for funds to ensure the completion of Stage 1 of the Chitchawatni School project in Pakistan was approved.

5) General:

Frank Van Dalen plans to step down as Executive Director in order to return to field ministry on December 31, 2014. Although this date is 15 months away, the process for the new Exec Director search needs to begin soon. The goal is to have a replacement Exec Director appointed by the March Board meeting and in place by June, 2014, so that there can be six months of overlap in the WW office. A search committee was appointed. Frank Van Dalen and Billy Barron will work on a job description; and the position will be advertised from Dec 1, 2013. From that point on, Billy Barron will be the staff liaison to the search committee.

(Please do not post information concerning our missionaries on the internet, Church websites, or in emails as much of their information is very sensitive.)

“In His Grip” Rev. David Walkup