

FLORIDA PRESBYTERY

**ASSOCIATE REFORMED
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**



**SPRING PRESBYTERY STATED MEETING
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
LAKE WALES, FLORIDA**

APRIL 28, 2015

Florida Presbytery Stated Meeting

April 28, 2015
First Presbyterian Church – Lake Wales, Florida

Presbytery began with worship at 10:00 am. It was led by the Rev. Chad Reynolds. The Rev. David Walkup, retiring Moderator of the Florida Presbytery, preached. The sacrament of the Lord's Supper was observed. An offering 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. A quorum was established as being present.

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, Bill McLain (Evangelism Explosion), 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: Matthew Sboto (Lake Placid)

Ruling Elders: Richard Miller (Avon Park), W. A. Read, Jr., Mickey Westberry (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: Debbie Bloemsma, Richard Rucker, Timothy Sewell (Lake Placid), Retired TE Edward Fleagle (First Presbytery, stated supply Avon Park)

Guests were welcomed by Moderator Walkup.

Mr. Steve Nichols addressed the Presbytery regarding the opportunities provided to churches through the ARP Foundation. He mentioned the value of the Financial Training Seminars being offered in various Presbyteries to assist the training of Church Treasurers.

The Agenda be amended to move the examination of Rev. Greg Conover to immediately after lunch in order to accommodate his scheduled flight home this afternoon. **M/S/C**

The Agenda was adopted as amended. **M/S/C**

The **Minutes** of the October 28, 2014 stated meeting were approved as submitted.

The Moderator appointed a committee to review Sessional Records during lunch: Darrell Peer, Rob Patrick, Tom Carrow.

The report of the Presbytery Council was presented by the Clerk.

Vote on the Proposed change to the *Form of Government* X.E.12.

Yes – 34; No – 0; Abstain – 0

Vote on the Change to the *Westminster Confession of Faith*, removing chapters XXXIV and XXXV. Yes – 36; No – 0; Abstain - 0

Drew Severance, chairman of the Minister and His Work Committee, introduced Rev. Greg Conover. He was given the floor to speak about his call to faith in Jesus Christ and his call to

Gospel ministry. He is married, has 3 children, 1 grandchild (and another due soon). He currently serves at The Bridge Church in Simpsonville, SC. The Committee met with Mr. Conover during lunch. A letter confirming that he is in good standing with the Second Presbytery of the ARPC has been received by the Clerk of Florida Presbytery. He was questioned regarding his theological conformity to the WCF, confirming such.

The examination of Greg Conover be sustained. **M/S/C**

The Call of Christ Presbyterian Church to Greg Conover to serve as Pastor. **M/S/C**

The Minister and His Work Committee will serve as a Commission of the Florida Presbytery for his installation as Pastor

Elder Brian Lindman, chair of the Search Committee for CPC, expressed thanks to the congregation for the ministry of Florida Presbytery to them during their time without a Pastor. He especially mentioned appreciation to Drew Severance, Bob Hovey, and Dave Rockness, who served as their interim Moderator of the Session.

Mr. Steve Richardson presented the report of the Treasurer of Florida Presbytery. He will be leaving this position at the end of June. An expression of great appreciation to Steve for his years of service to the Lord as Treasurer. Bob Hovey led in a prayer for Steve.

A motion was presented to provide for the purchase of software for the Florida Presbytery since the software he has used no longer has technical support. **M/S/C**

Communications from the Clerk included requests for excused absences. The Synod's correspondence regarding how each congregation makes provision for use of the Synod Health Insurance program in compliance with the Affordable Care Act. Also to plan to stay for business at the 2015 meeting of the General Synod, until Thursday evening. With concurrent synods it is anticipated that the business will require more time to be fully covered than in some years.

Report on the Executive Board of Synod was presented by Darrell Peer, who represented the Presbytery at the meeting. He mentioned that he has covered this for the Presbytery while serving on the Dunlap Board, of which he has now rotated off. The report was received as a whole. **M/S/C**

Report on Nominations was presented by Charlie Lewis. He noted a change to the nomination to the Committee on Christian Education, Debbie Bloemsma (Lake Placid) will serve in place of Starla Shattler. **M/S/C**

Report on Church Extension was presented by the Chairman, Mark Bolhofner. Two new elders will be appointed for the Christ Community Church. **M/S/C**
The report was received as a whole. **M/S/C**

Minister and His Work Committee

Chairman Drew Severance noted that Brooks Pipher has previously preached before the Presbytery on two occasions.

Examination of Mr. John Brooks Pipher for Licensure. (This examination will also apply to his ordination, pending a Call.) Brooks gave his personal testimony of faith, growing up in a covenant home, and how the Lord used the ministry of Florida Presbytery's Camp Sunshine to

seal his call to follow the Lord, as well as to give his life to Gospel ministry. He spoke of his growing understanding of the Lord's call to him to prepare for Gospel ministry.

Mike Avato examined in regard to theology. Steve Reynolds examined as to knowledge of the English Bible. David Walkup examined in the area of Church history. Dennis Rupert examined regarding Church polity. Bob Hovey asked questions regarding pastoral care. Questions were open to the Presbytery.

The Moderator opened the floor to discussion regarding the examination of Brooks Pipher. The examination is sustained. **M/S/C**

Examination of Timothy Sewell for Licensure (to be sustained for ordination pending a Call). Tim gave his personal testimony of faith and sense of call to Gospel ministry. He is married and has two young daughters. He is currently engaged in youth ministry and assists in leading worship with the praise team at Lake Placid. Steve Reynolds gave the English Bible exam. Mike Avato gave the theology exam. David Walkup examined in the area of Church history. Dennis Rupert examined in the area of Church polity.

The Moderator opened the floor to discussion regarding the examination of Timothy Sewell. There was discussion noting the change to the FoG regarding the requirements for Licensure and Ordination. It was noted that if there is an exception to the M.Div. degree or of a Seminary that is not approved by the Presbytery, then written exception is to be made known to the Presbytery in writing, and in advance of the meeting of the Presbytery. An exception requires a $\frac{3}{4}$ vote of the Presbytery to be sustained. A motion was made to waive the requirement based on the requirements of the Th.M. degree included and surpassed the requirements of M.Div. degree. The Presbytery voted unanimously to waive the requirement as an exception in this case. **M/S/C**
The examination be sustained. **M/S/C**

The Moderator brought Timothy Sewell and Brooks Pipher forward and asked them the questions for Licensure. They affirmed all questions. The Moderator then addressed them regarding the excellencies and responsibilities of Gospel ministry. Certificates of Licensure were issued to both.

The Clerk was instructed to write a detailed report as to the exception decision process and submit to the Presbytery for information and approval.

Transfer of Timothy Wohlers to the Presbytery of New Jersey (PCA). **M/S/C**

Remove Student of Theology, Jonathan Mikule, from the roster. **M/S/C**

The report of the Minister and His Work Committee be received as a whole. **M/S/C**

The Moderator gave the floor to Mrs. Emma Pike to speak about the plans for her, Colby and family to move to Scotland in August as missionaries with World Witness. They are currently at 95% support. She expressed appreciation for the support from her home church and community as well as by several churches of the Presbytery. They need to sell their home in Lake Wales. A Commissioning service is planned for June 7th at Lake Wales. Kim Payne led in prayer for the Pike's.

The Christian Education Committee report was presented by Andrew Shoger. There were no recommendations.

The Stewardship Committee has not met but will be overseeing the process with the ad hoc committee working for the incorporation of the Presbytery. Ad hoc committee members: David Walkup, Charlie Lewis, Steve Richardson and Andy Hunt.

Mike Jones reported briefly as Missions Liaison.

Moderator Amari closed the meeting with prayer at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Ray Cameron, Stated Clerk

Florida Presbytery Agenda
April 28, 2015
First Presbyterian Church, Lake Wales, Florida

9:30 am	Registration & Fellowship	
10:00	Worship	
	Rev. Chad Reynolds	
	Call to Order – Moderator David Walkup	
	Roll Call	
	Recognition of Guests	
	Steve Nichols – Director of Gift Planning for the ARP Foundation	
	Comments from host pastor	
	Adoption of Agenda	
	Election & Installation of Moderator	
	Approval of Minutes (October 28, 2014)	
	Appointment of Moderator’s Committee on Sessional Records	
	Moderator of the General Synod – Larry Littlejohn	
	Report of the Presbytery Council	
	Vote on the Proposed <i>Form of Government</i> change	
	Vote on the Change to the <i>Confession of Faith</i>, removing chapters XXXIV & XXXV.	
Noon	Lunch	
1:00 pm	Treasurer’s Report	
	Communications from the Clerk	
	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

Minister and His Work

Name	Church	Class	Term
Mike Avato	Tradewinds	2016	U.T.
Don Bates	Lake Placid	2016	1st
Hugh Crawford	Bartow	2016	1st
Drew Severance	Lake Placid	2016	E.T.
Bob Hovey	Son Life	2017	1st
Jim Keller	Bartow	2017	1st
Steve Reynolds	Renew	2017	1st
David Crews	Lake Wales	2018	1st
Dennis Rupert	Morning Star	2018	2nd
David Walkup	Chapel by the Sea	2018	2nd

Stewardship

Name	Church	Class	Term
Kent Adrian	Shepherd Road	2016	2nd
Randy Bunn	Chapel by the Sea	2016	2nd
Keith Baker	Chapel By The Sea	2017	1st
Michael Noel	Lake Placid	2017	1st
Bobby Adams	Faith	2018	1st
Mike Jones	ONA	2018	2nd
Charlie Lewis	Christ Community		Ex-Officio

Principal Clerk

Ray Cameron	Lake Placid	2018	2nd
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Reading Clerk

Darrell Peer	Sebring	2018	1st
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Dunlap Board Representative

Andrew Shoger	Bartow	2018	1st
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World Missions Liaison

Matt Joldersma	Lake Wales	2018	1st
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Executive Committee

Richard Amari (Mod)	Tradewinds	2015-2016	
Bobby Adams (Vice Mod)	Faith	2015-2016	

E.T. = Extended Term (Cannot be re-elected to same committee)

U.T. = Unexpired term (Can be re-elected to full term)

Report of Florida Presbytery Committee on Nominations April 28, 2015

The Committee makes the following motions:

1. That Rev. Bobby Adams be elected to the Vice Moderator position for the 2015 – 2016 term and Moderator for the 2016 – 2017 term.
2. That Rev. Charlie Lewis be elected Treasurer.
3. That the rules of Florida Presbytery be suspended and that Drew Severence's term on the Minister and His Work Committee be extended one year through June, 2016.
4. That the following nominees be elected to the designated terms:
 - CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: Randall Anderson
Tim Sewell
Starla Shattler, 2017 (Filling an Unexpired Term)

 - CHURCH EXTENSION: Richard Amari
Steve Lasiter
Dave Rockness

 - NOMINATIONS: Frank Hunt III

 - MINISTER and HIS WORK: Mike Avato (Filling an Unexpired Term)
David Crews
Dennis Rupert
Drew Severence (Extension; see recommendation #1)
David Walkup

 - STEWARDSHIP: Bobby Adams
Mike Jones
Charlie Lewis (Treasurer replacing Steve Richardson)

 - PRINCIPLE CLERK: Ray Cameron

 - READING CLERK: Darrell Peer

 - DUNLAP BOARD: Andrew Shoger

 - WORLD MISSIONS: Matt Joldersma

 - EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: (Vice Moderator) Bobby Adams

Respectfully submitted,

Jac Coad
Chairman

Report of the Christian Education Committee
2015 Stated Spring Meeting of the
Florida Presbytery

The Christian Education Committee met on Wednesday, March 25, 2015 via video/phone conference.

Significant matters of information include:

- The combined Middle & High School Winter Retreat in January was extremely successful, with nearly 150 (representing 8 churches) in attendance and the Gospel clearly proclaimed.
- Plans for Camp Joy Florida were noted.
- The CEC recognized the need for a devoted director for the Juniors Retreat. The members of Presbytery are encouraged to share possible candidates with the committee.
- The committee also reviewed plans regarding the Elder/Deacon Training and Disciple Makers Equipping Conference.

We continue to encourage members of Presbytery to be involved with and help promote the various opportunities for Christian Education offered throughout the year.

Respectfully Submitted,
Andrew Shoger
Chairman

Minister & His Work Committee Report (Florida Presbytery; April 28, 2015)

For Information Only

1) **Avon Park** --- ARP TE/Retired Pastor, Ed Fleagle, continues to serve as interim moderator and stated pulpit supply; representatives from our committee met with their elders and search committee on 1/27/15; end result was that the church increased its compensation package; having early conversations with a particular candidate

2) **Hope Tampa** --- ARP TE/Associate Pastor, Tom Edwards, continues to serve as interim moderator and stated pulpit supply; search committee has recently forwarded two candidates for consideration to the session

3) **Scholarship report** --- in January 2015, the subcommittee awarded \$1,495 to Karl Davis

Recommendations

1) **Tim Wohlers** --- transfer him to the Presbytery of New Jersey (PCA); has taken a position as an Assistant Pastor at Calvary Church in Allenwood

2) **Jonathan Mikule** --- remove him from our undercare roster; has taken a Youth Director/Worship Leader ministry position with an EPC church plant in Hampstead, NC

3) **Greg Conover** --- approve his transfer from Second Presbytery; approve his call to Christ Presbyterian Church (Bradenton); set up a commission for his installation

4) **Brooks Pipher** --- approve his oral exam for licensure

5) **Tim Sewell** --- approve his oral exam for licensure

Encouragement/Prayer Needs

- 1) Military chaplain --- Chris Reeder (christopher.reeder1968@gmail.com)
- 2) Transition for The Bridge and Christ Presbyterian churches
- 3) Churches seeking pastors --- Avon Park 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) Brooks Pipher (803-767-6770)
 - e) Matt Sboto (631-291-5230)

Respectfully Submitted: Drew Severance (Chairman)

**Report of the Church Extension Committee
for 2015 spring 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 and Wes met in Lake Placid on April 14. Steve Reynolds joined us to give a report on the Renew church plant in Ft. Myers. 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 more months (ONA had agreed to do the same at its Board meeting April 7-8).

Charlie Lewis also visited with the Church Extension Committee, bringing us all up to date on progress at Christ Community toward being self-supporting and organized as a particular church.

The status of the other church plants in Florida, and the possibilities of new works were discussed, as was the Church Planter Coaching opportunity in May in Charlotte, and the pre-Synod Conference with Ian Duguid. The motion was made, seconded, and approved that Church Extension pay the cost of airfare for Mike Avato and Wes Spring to attend the Coaching training.

This report submitted by
Mark Bolhofner
Chairman

Presbytery Council Minutes
March 26, 2015 – 11:00 a.m.

The meeting was held at the First Presbyterian Church, Lake Wales. David Walkup opened with prayer at 11:25 a.m..

Present: Drew Severance, Andrew Shoger, David Walkup, Ray Cameron, Chad Reynolds
Speakerphone: Mark Bolhofner, Jac Coad
Excused: Steve Richardson

The Council met to plan the Spring Stated Meeting of the Florida Presbytery, to be held at the First Presbyterian Church, Lake Wales.

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

Worship, including the Lord's Supper, will be led by Rev. Chad Reynolds, beginning at 10:00. Rev. David Walkup will preach in place of a retiring Moderator's address.

The Minutes of the October 28th meeting of the Florida Presbytery will be presented for approval.

The following **Session Records are to be examined** at the Fall Meeting: *Avon Park, Community Chapel-by-the-Sea, Faith (Merritt Island), Faith (Oxford), Lake Placid, Morning Star, North Creek, Trinity.*

Mr. Steve Nichols, Director of Gift Planning for the ARP Foundation, has requested an opportunity to speak to the Presbytery. An invitation to do so will be extended.

Unfinished Business to be considered at this meeting comes from the recommendation of the ad hoc committee that regarding the Florida Presbytery becoming incorporated. The Officers will be the Stated Clerk and the Treasurer of the Presbytery. **M/S/C**

There will be a vote as required by the General Synod 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. The revision is to Chapter X, Section E, 12.

There will be a vote regarding the changes to the *Westminster Confession of Faith*, removing chapters XXXIV (*Of the Holy Spirit*) and XXXV (*Of the Gospel*), that was approved by the General Synod in June 2014.

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

Ray Cameron will check with Darrell Peer to see if he will plan to give a report from Synod's Executive Board. 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 Minister and His Work Committee has several items of business to bring to the Presbytery: 1) They will present two candidates to be examined for Licensure. The intent is for the examination to also serve as an ordination exam for the time when a Call is presented. 2) A Call for the Rev. Greg Conover to serve as Teaching Elder of the Christ Presbyterian Church will be presented for approval and Rev. Conover will be examined before the Presbytery. 3) Approval for the Transfer of the Rev. Timothy Wohlers, to the New Jersey Presbytery of the PCA. 4) An update on Students Under Care of the Presbytery with possible recommendations.

The Christian Education Committee does not expect to present any recommendations.

The Nominations Committee will present several names to serve on Presbytery Committees. They also recommend that the Rev. Bobby Adams serve as Vice Moderator of Florida Presbytery. The Rev. Charlie Lewis to serve as Treasurer of Florida Presbytery. And that the Rev. Darrell Peer's term with the Dunlap Board be extended for one year.

David Walkup will have a phone meeting with the Stewardship Committee before the Presbytery meets in April.

The next Stated Meeting of the Florida Presbytery is scheduled for: October 27, 2015 in Lake Placid. It is recommended that the 2016 meetings be held in Avon Park, on April 26th, and at Faith (Merritt Island), on October 25th. Ray Cameron will check with these churches to confirm their willingness to host the Presbytery next year.

The Council adjourned with prayer led by David Walkup at 12:25 p.m.
Respectfully submitted,
Ray Cameron, Clerk

Florida Presbytery
Stated Meeting
April 28, 2015

Treasurer's Report

1. Attached to this report are the Budget Comparison, Profit and Loss Statement, and Balance Sheet for FY 2014.
2. There is little to comment upon, which is good.
3. The twenty-five thousand dollars approved for Erskine Seminary at the Fall 2014 Stated Meeting has been sent, \$15K during 2014, \$10K in 2015.
4. Also attached are the Budget Comparison, Profit and Loss Statement, and Balance sheet for the 1st quarter of 2015.
5. Assessments have been received at a good pace. Treasurer asks again that Assessments not be sent monthly. Quarterly or on the one-payment plan are more convenient for church and Presbytery treasurers.
6. Treasurer has heard nothing concerning the transition to another treasurer. Several items need to be addressed before and during the transition:
 - a. Treasurer's current version of QuickBooks Pro 2012 will not be supported after May, 2015. This will have no immediate effect, but should be kept in mind. Files should be portable to the new version, but there will probably have to be a

reformatting of the back-up files to upgrade. Treasurer does not use QB for any other purpose except Presbytery's books and will not upgrade. It should be noted that QB for Windows and QB for Apple are not cross compatible.

- b. Consideration should be given to using an on-line bookkeeping program. QuickBooks has a version; the Treasurer uses ICON for Faith M.I. Use of an online system gives more flexibility and accountability, though it is a bit more expensive.
 - c. As stated at the last meeting, a new bank should be selected which is more accessible to future treasurers. New checks and signature cards will be necessary. On-line and postal banking ease the problems of access to the bank, but Merritt Island is inconvenient for all but one of the Florida congregations. Please recall that the only other person who can sign checks is Rev. Billy Barron.
 - d. An address, other than the treasurer's home, should be used for official business.
 - e. A place to archive Presbytery's past business should be considered. A file cabinet drawer and paper box in the treasurer's closet does not seem appropriate or secure.
 - f. Though discussed, there has been no action taken on investing Presbytery's surplus moneys. Perhaps Mr. Bell could help with the paperwork and transfer while representatives are at Synod.
7. It has been an honor to serve Presbytery. Family and health require I take a break.

04/13/15

Florida Presbytery
Budget Comparison
 January through December 2014

	<u>Jan - Dec 14</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>% of Budget</u>
Ordinary Income/Expense			
Income			
Assessment Income	19,111.00	20,634.00	92.6%
Total Income	<u>19,111.00</u>	<u>20,634.00</u>	<u>92.6%</u>
Expense			
Administration	207.12	200.00	103.6%
Christian Education	4,280.74	9,500.00	45.1%
Church Extension	9,400.00	9,400.00	100.0%
John Ball Scholarship	3,878.00	3,878.00	100.0%
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	<u>17,765.86</u>	<u>23,803.00</u>	<u>74.6%</u>
Net Ordinary Income	<u>1,345.14</u>	<u>-3,169.00</u>	<u>-42.4%</u>
Net Income	<u><u>1,345.14</u></u>	<u><u>-3,169.00</u></u>	<u><u>-42.4%</u></u>

04/13/15

Florida Presbytery
Budget Comparison
 January through March 2015

	<u>Jan - Mar 15</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>% of Budget</u>
Ordinary Income/Expense			
Income			
Assessment Income	12,786.00	19,746.00	64.8%
Total Income	<u>12,786.00</u>	<u>19,746.00</u>	<u>64.8%</u>
Expense			
Administration	30.47	200.00	15.2%
Christian Education	2,615.60	4,603.00	56.8%
Church Extension	0.00	8,227.00	0.0%
John Ball Scholarship	3,291.00	3,291.00	100.0%
Minister & His Work	0.00	225.00	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	<u>5,937.07</u>	<u>16,746.00</u>	<u>35.5%</u>
Net Ordinary Income	<u>6,848.93</u>	<u>3,000.00</u>	<u>228.3%</u>
Net Income	<u><u>6,848.93</u></u>	<u><u>3,000.00</u></u>	<u><u>228.3%</u></u>