

PRESBYTERY OF TAMPA BAY, INC.
STATED MEETING
Thursday, July 23, 2015, 9:00 a.m.
McLeod Presbyterian Church, Bartow, Florida

CALL TO ORDER

Moderator Rev. Dr. John Fullerton called the July 23, 2015 Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Tampa Bay to order at 9:00 a.m. at McLeod Presbyterian Church, Bartow, Florida. The meeting served both as an ecclesiastical governing body of the Presbyterian Church (USA) and a meeting of the Presbytery of Tampa Bay, Inc., a non-profit corporation in the State of Florida.

A quorum was present.

The meeting was opened with prayer by the Moderator.

The Docketed Agenda was approved.

An elder from the host congregation welcomed the presbytery. This is the first time that McLeod Memorial Presbyterian Church hosted a Presbytery Stated Meeting.

First time Commissioners were recognized.

By vote, the Rev. Dr. Donnie Rufus Woods, Executive Presbyter and Associate Stated Clerk of the Atlantic Charleston Presbytery, Clark Simmons from the Board of Pensions, and Rev. Walter Chuquimia, Pastor at Beth El, were enrolled as Corresponding Member(s).

Tellers were appointed by the Moderator: from the West, TE Bob Scott, and RE Sue Moore; from Hillsborough, TE Ginny Simmons, and RE Virginia Green; from the East, TE Charles Perrine and RE Jim Magnusen.

Report of the Stated Clerk and Communications Director Nominating Committee

Revs. Vicki ByRoade and David Drain

The Rev. David Baker was presented as the candidate for Stated Clerk and Director of Communications. This is a full-time position. At the same time, a revised position description was moved. The floor was opened for questions and discussion, and followed by a ballot vote. Rev. Baker was duly elected to a three-year term under the revised position description 133 in favor and 1 against.

A motion by Garry Justice, RE Northwood, was made and seconded to have future ballots include the full text of the motion. This motion failed on a voice vote.

The Stated Clerk and Communications Director Nominating Committee was dismissed with grateful thanks.

The Temporary Stated Clerk, the Rev. Laurie Palmer, then stepped down from her duties with many thanks.

Consent Agenda

The presbytery voted affirmatively to accept the Consent Agenda, pulling out a motion from the Commission on Church Vitality for further consideration.

Attached are actions and motions approved from:

- Presbyterian Women
- Commission on Church Vitality
- Commission on Ministry
- Coordinating Team
- Trustees

Worship

We moved to worship. Hymns were sung, prayers prayed, Scripture read and heard, Good News was proclaimed and heard, Communion was shared, and the Stated Clerk and Director of Communications was installed. A collection in the amount of \$1916.70 was taken on behalf of Springwater Church of Brandon, which recently suffered a fire. Participants in worship were: Donnie Woods, Vicki ByRoade, Laurie Palmer, Patrice Hatley, Phyllis Hatter, Steve Negley, Adam Balic, and Andy Staley.

A short break followed worship.

Commission and Committee Reports

- **Nominations and Representation, Rev. Fitz Conner**
 - Commission on Church Vitality: Paula Salter; RE; St. Andrew, New Tampa; Hillsborough Region; 15-0
 - Commission on Ministry: Charles Perrine (HR); TE; Chair; East Region; to fulfill 2015 term
 - Synod of South Atlantic Commissioner: David Shelor; TE; Hope PC, Clearwater; to fulfill 2015 term
 - Vice-Moderator 2016 Designate: Mike Loudon; TE; FPC, Lakeland; East Region
 - East Region Commission: Owen Carriker; TE; Hope, Winter Haven; member-at-large

Nominations were opened to the floor. No nominations were made. This slate was approved.

Fitz reminded the presbytery that nominations are now being taken for 2016 GA Commissioners. The application was included in the meeting packet and is also available on the presbytery website.

- **Bills and Overtures, Rev. Carl vom Eigen**

The following overture has been moved by the Sessions of Springwater Fellowship, Tims Memorial, and St. Marks:

OVERTURE: *The Presbytery of Tampa Bay respectfully overtures the 222st General Assembly (2016) to direct the Stated Clerk to send the following proposed amendment to the presbyteries for their affirmative or negative vote:*

Shall G-2.0607c (Final Assessment and Negotiation for Service) be amended by adding the phrase “practical training in evangelism (agile speaking and teaching concise truth about Jesus Christ as confessed in the Nicene Creed),” before the word “satisfactory” so that the paragraph reads as follows: [Text to be added in bold italics and set in context].

G-2.0607 Final Assessment and Negotiation for Service

A candidate may not enter into negotiation for his or her service as a teaching elder without approval of the presbytery. The presbytery shall record when it has certified a candidate ready for examination for ordination, pending a call. Evidence of readiness to begin ordered ministry as a teaching elder shall include:

- a. a candidate’s wisdom and maturity of faith, leadership skills, compassionate spirit, honest repute, and sound judgment;*
- b. a transcript showing graduation, with satisfactory grades, at a regionally accredited college or university;*
- c. a transcript from a theological institution accredited by the Association of Theological Schools acceptable to the presbytery, showing a course of study including Hebrew and Greek, exegesis of the Old and New Testaments using Hebrew and Greek, **practical training in evangelism (agile speaking and teaching concise truth about Jesus Christ as confessed in the Nicene Creed)**, satisfactory grades in all areas of study, and graduation or proximity to graduation; and*
- d. satisfactory grades, together with the examination papers in the areas covered by any standard ordination*

Bills and Overtures advised the Presbytery of Tampa Bay to disapprove the Evangelism Overture.

The Rev. Carl Lammers was given an opportunity to present the merits of the Overture.

The presbytery discussed the overture and voted. A division of the house was called for, and the motion was approved 81 in favor and 44 against.

- **Commission on Preparation for Ministry, RE Sue Moore**

Elder Moore presented the Commissioned Ruling Elder Program for presbytery’s approval.

After discussion, the presbytery voted to approve the program.

Following a word from Board of Pensions representative Clark Simmons, the Vice-Moderator invited TE Jim Hatch to bless our meal then dismissed the Presbytery to lunch.

Partner Updates

John Reiter, Cedarkirk Camp and Conference Center
Kathleen Dain, Beth-El Farmworker Ministry
Kathy Broyard, Florida Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Network

Reports of Staff and Officers

- Patrice Hatley, Coach and Coordinator

Holy Conversation about Racial Differences

Donnie Rufus Woods, Norm Hatter, Denise McLeod, Malcom Porter and Jean Coley led the Presbytery in a conversation about race in America.

Reports of Staff and Officers, Continued

- Mike Loudon, Coordinating Team Chair
 - Terry Dennis, Treasurer
 - John Fullerton, Moderator
 - Marsha Rydberg, Vice-Moderator
 - David Baker, Stated Clerk and Director of Communications
- All requests for excused absences were granted for today's meeting and for the called special meeting of May 14, 2015.

The presbytery voted to approved the following dates and locations for 2016 Stated Meetings:

February 27, 2016, Beth-El Farmworker Ministry in Wimauma

November 17, 2016, First Presbyterian Church, Lakeland

Many thanks to these who graciously responded to presbytery's request for meeting places.

Unfinished Business

In its report from the consent agenda, the Commission on Church Vitality moved to amend the Task Force Report presented to Presbytery on May 9, 2013 as follows:

That the definition of capital funds in the Task Force Report include both property and salary.

Barbra Booth-Jarmon, Florida Presbyterian Homes, moved that the motion be postponed until the next meeting of the Presbytery so that the Board of Trustees and Commission on Church Vitality may meet to discuss the issue. This motion was seconded and passed.

Adjournment

RE Reg Dickey and TE Kathleen Dain gave a resolution of thanks. Following this, there was a motion, seconded and passed, to adjourn the meeting, the Moderator prayed and the presbytery sang.

Respect submitted,

Rev. David Baker
Stated Clerk, Presbytery of Tampa Bay

DRAFT