



Presbytery of Tampa Bay

455 Scotland St. Suite 1, Dunedin FL, 34698

February 14, 2019

Give justice to the weak and the fatherless; maintain the right of the afflicted and the destitute. Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked.

Psalm 82:3-4

The Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Tampa Bay will be held on Thursday, February 21, 2019 at First Presbyterian Church of St. Petersburg, 701 Beach Dr NE, St. Petersburg, FL 33701. A map and directions can be found in the packet. Note that valet parking will be available at the front of the Sanctuary for those who require it, and that there are ramps and elevators to help those who need it to move from one floor to another.

A theme of this Presbytery will be support for children. We'll hear from pastors who have experience acting as Guardians ad Litem, while our Networking Groups will have questions preparing us for this later discussion. Additionally, our offering this meeting will go to Ready for Life, an organization that helps foster kids transition to adult life. Go to readyforlifepinellas.org or page 21 of the packet for more information. **Checks for the offering should be made out to the Presbytery of Tampa Bay.**

Registration will begin at 8:15 a.m. inside the chapel, with refreshments also located there in the morning while Display tables will be set up in the Fellowship Hall. *Please note that Minister Members will receive their Minister ID cards with their name badges this year.* The meeting will begin promptly at 9:00am in the Sanctuary. First-time commissioners are invited to attend an online orientation on **Monday February 18th at 7:30pm** here: www.presbyteryoftampabay.com/orientation. More materials can be found on pp. 5-9 of this packet.

You will find the presbytery meeting packet with this letter--directions to the church, a map of the facilities, the Docket, information for the Consent Agenda, Commission/Committee reports, orientation materials and other information. ***Please print copies and bring them to the meeting, or bring a device to view them.*** Some highlights planned for the meeting:

- The Committee on Bills and Overtures will present its recommendations to the Presbytery regarding the vote on proposed amendments to the Book of Order from the 223rd General Assembly (pp. 22-44)
- The Commission on Ministry will present two church mergers for approval: First Port Richey and Trinity PC of Seven Springs (pp. 47-64), and Palma Ceia and Bel-Mar (pp. 65-75)
- The Coordinating Team (CT) will recommend a new Presbytery staff position, titled Emerging Ministries Associate (p. 79-80) as well as an Acting Stated Clerk, Bill Wildhack
- The Coordinating Team (CT) will also recommend a budget for 2019 (p. 83-86)

For lunch we'll be having boxed lunches provided by Westminster Communities. Lunch tickets will be only \$5, thanks to help from Westminster. Purchase your ticket when you register, before the meeting is called to order, or during the first break.

The peace of Christ be with you,

Loli

Lolimarta Ros Reiter,
Moderator

Dave

Dave Baker,
Stated Clerk and Director of Communications

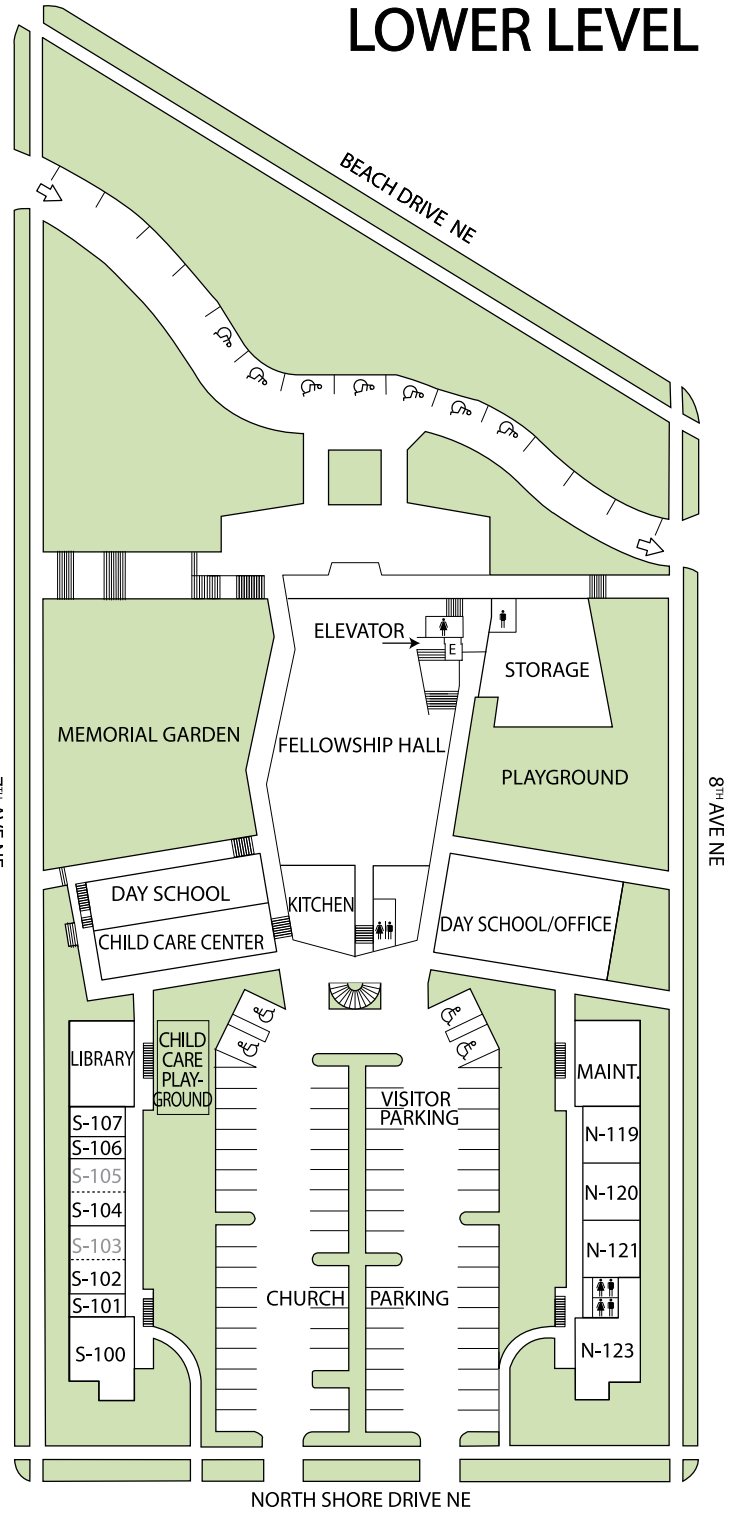
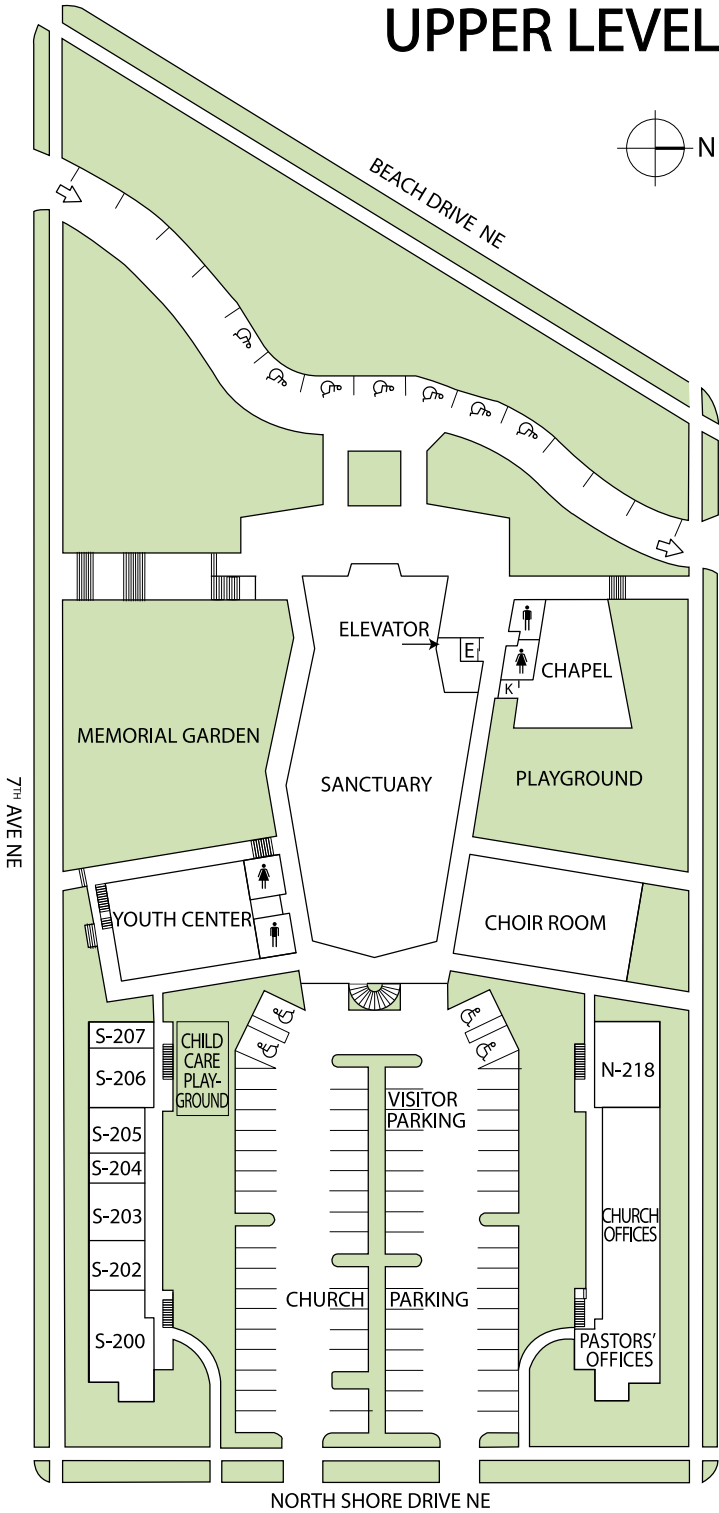
Directions to First Presbyterian Church 701 Beach Drive NE, St. Petersburg

To get to First Presbyterian Church from I-275 in St. Petersburg, take I-375, which is Exit 23 from the south or 23A from the north, and is located on the east side of the highway and marked for Sun Dial and The Pier. Continue on I-375 until it ends, leaving you on 4th Avenue North. Take 4th Avenue until it ends at Beach Drive Northeast. Turn left onto Beach Drive and drive 3 blocks, past the Renaissance Vinoy Resort. The church is on the right at 701 Beach Drive Northeast. Parking is available in back of the church and in the grass lot at the corner of 7th Avenue and Beach, and on the street.



UPPER LEVEL

LOWER LEVEL



CAMPUS MAP



Networking Groups and Meeting Locations

1)New Members Presbytery (Choir Room B)

-For those who have been in the Presbytery for 2 years or less

2)“Youngish” TEs/REs and social media (Youth Center)

-The church usually defines “Young Clergy” as under 40, but we’ll let you self-define.

3)HR Ministers (S-202)

-For those who are honorably retired

4)Validated Ministries (Youth Center B)

-For those who serve validated ministries

5)Small Churches (Choir Room)

-The church usually defines “small church” as under 120 members, but we’ll let you self-define.

6)Medium/Large Churches (N-123)

-Medium/Large churches with several staff members.

7)Clerks of Session (N-218)

-For clerks of session or those interested in being a clerk

8)Mission and Evangelism (S-200)

-For those interested in sharing ideas/enriching/strengthening their mission and evangelism ministry (since as Christians we should all be doing mission and evangelism)

9)Social Justice and Environmental Issues (S-100)

-For those interested in sharing ideas/enriching/strengthening their efforts towards Social Justice and the Environment

First Time Commissioner Orientation Presbytery of Tampa Bay

If this is your first time as a Commissioner to any Presbytery meeting, please start here. If this is your first time at the Presbytery of Tampa Bay, but not your first rodeo, you may want to skip the first couple of sections.

Presbytery Meeting Basics

As a Presbyterian, you probably already know the basics of our system of government, so let me share a few tips you may not realize:

- You are a Commissioner, not a Delegate
 - This means that no one, not your session, not your pastor, not your spouse, can tell you how to vote on a particular issue. That's between you and the Holy Spirit.
- You may not know who all these people are and what their jobs are, so here's a cheat sheet.

Cast of Characters:

- Moderator
 - Rev. Loli Ros Reiter, the person with the gavel. The Moderator is responsible to make sure the meeting runs well, and is the non-staff leader of the Presbytery.
- Vice Moderator
 - Elder Johnathan Owen also moderates part of each Presbytery meeting, and is the Moderator in waiting.
- Presbytery Coach and Coordinator
 - Elder Patrice Hatley is our Presbytery's coach and executive. She's the staff numero uno and has a variety of responsibilities throughout the Presbytery, including acting as pastor to our clergy members.
- Stated Clerk
 - Rev. Dave Baker is the Presbytery's Stated Clerk and Director of Communications. As Stated Clerk he's responsible to help plan presbytery meetings, prepare the presbytery packet, and keep the meeting running "decently and in order", acting as the Presbytery's parliamentarian. Soon this position will be taken over transitionally by Rev. Bill Wildhack.
- Treasurer
 - Elder Terry Dennis is the guy who's going to explain the numbers to us. He's a volunteer officer of the Presbytery and responsible for the finances and budget of the Presbytery.

- You'll hear a lot of acronyms at a Presbytery meeting. Mostly these are our Committees and Commissions. Some translations:
 - COM (Commission on Ministry)
 - The Commission on Ministry is the primary body responsible for making decisions about relationships between pastors and churches, whether a particular pastor may become a member of the Presbytery, etc. It does its work primarily in regions. The COM is chaired by Rev. Laurie Palmer. East Region Chair is Ruling Elder Kris Marone, Central Region Chairs are Revs. James Friesen and Susan Hill, West Region Chair is Ruling Elder Michael Clark.
 - CPM (Commission on Preparation for Ministry)
 - The Commission on Preparation is the primary body responsible for those seeking to become ministers, also known as Inquirers and Candidates. Chaired by Rev. Deb Belusa.
 - CCV (Commission on Church Vitality)
 - They have all kinds of resources and money to give to churches. The CCV is chaired by Rev. Micki Robinson.
 - NRC (Nominating and Representation Committee)
 - Responsible for nominating Teaching and Ruling Elders to most committees and commissions. Be sure to share your gifts and talents with new Chair Rev. Vicki ByRode!
 - Trustees (Board of Trustees)
 - The Trustees are a Commission of the Presbytery that handles the legal side of Presbytery business, implementing decisions of the main body, but also approving requests from churches for things like leasing their sanctuary, selling property, etc. Chaired by Rev. Norm Hatter.
 - CT (Coordinating Team)
 - As the leadership group of the Presbytery, the Coordinating Team is a Commission made up of the chairs of each group above, as well as the Moderator and Vice-Moderator. The outgoing Moderator acts as the chair of the CT, while the Treasurer, Stated Clerk and Presbytery Coach and Coordinator all serve as ex officio members of the Team. Chaired by Rev. Libby Shannon.
- Presbyterian meetings are governed by Robert's Rules of Order
 - "No? Really?" you say. But yes, believe it or not, the Book of Order directs (G-3.0105) that Presbyterian councils (such as the Session or Presbytery or General Assembly) are governed by Robert's Rules of Order. That doesn't mean you have to be a parliamentary expert to attend meetings, but you should probably learn the basics below if you want the meeting to make sense once business begins.

Robert's Rules Cheat Sheet

Below is a summary of your rights and responsibilities under Robert's Rules. Generally speaking, these rules are intended to reduce tension, protect the rights and voice of the minority opinion, and of course, keep us doing things "decently and in order" (1 Cor. 14:40, ESV).

- Always address your comments to the Moderator or presenter, never to other commenters
- Generally, don't interrupt another speaker, but wait until you're recognized by the Moderator
 - EXCEPT for these reasons (not exhaustive):
 - You can't hear what's going on or you're so uncomfortable over the room temperature, etc. you can't stay in the meeting (say, "Point of Privilege" then explain the problem)
 - You think something was wrong with what just happened (say, "Point of Order" then state your objection. The chair will then decide if you're right or not.)
 - You want to request information from the speaker (say, "Point of Information" and ask your question. This is NOT an opportunity to give information, but only to request it.)
- Some motions it may be useful to know about:
 - Call the Question, aka, Move the Previous Question
 - A request to vote on whether or not to vote. This motion requires a second, but isn't debatable. It can only be made after the Moderator recognizes you. Typically it's made when someone thinks we've hit the limit of productive discussion, and we're running in circles.
 - When you hear "Call the Question", be aware that the next vote is *not* on whatever it is we're talking about, but on whether or not to continue discussion. An affirmative vote will end discussion, and the next vote is on the main motion.
 - To protect the rights of the minority opinion, this motion requires a 2/3rds majority to pass.
 - Amendments to Main Motions
 - If you want to slightly modify the language of a motion, to add, delete or replace some language, you'll want to say "I move to amend the motion..." when the Moderator recognizes you. This requires a second, and will then be discussed and voted on.
 - Substitute Motions
 - If you want to substantially modify a motion on the floor, changing the intent or most of the language, you need to use a Substitute Motion instead of amending the current motion. When the Moderator recognizes you, you'll say "I move the following substitute motion" and read your alternative suggestion. You'll also want to provide a copy to the Stated Clerk in writing.
 - Division of the House
 - If you think that a voice vote was too close to call, any member of the Presbytery may request a "Division of the House" or vote by raised hands or ballot.

- Order of the Day
 - Not a motion, but something you'll see on the agenda, usually related to lunch. All "Order of the Day" means is that we need to drop whatever it is we're doing when the time for that item arrives and start doing the "Order of the Day".
- Not necessarily in Robert's, but please follow these conventions of our Presbytery regardless:
 - **When you want to speak, please come to the microphone, then state your name, status (clergy or elder) and church.**
 - **Please return your nametag lanyard and evaluation to Ann Marie at the end of the meeting.**
 - Please read the Presbytery Packet thoroughly *before* the meeting.
 - Especially, read the items on the "Consent Agenda", as those motions will be passed right at the beginning of the meeting unless you speak up at that time.
 - You should also bring a copy of the Presbytery Packet with you, as there won't be any additional printed packets at the meeting. Digital copies are fine.
 - If you're *really* into polity, you may also want to consult the Presbytery's bylaws found on our website for more information about how our presbytery does business.

What makes the Presbytery of Tampa Bay different than other presbyteries?

If you're new to our presbytery, you may want to read the information above about our committee and commission structures. Several years ago our presbytery underwent a transformation process which is only recently being brought to completion. This resulted in a new mission statement, some common values, and a more relational, "bottom up" model of doing its work.

Our Mission Statement, to identify and strengthen leaders so that every congregation makes new and mature disciples for Jesus Christ, helps us to keep our focus on leadership development and outreach. Practically, this means that there is usually a component of training at Presbytery meetings, but also that there are intentional relational opportunities for us to get to know other leaders.

The core values we adopted during the transformation were to be relentlessly congregational, meaningfully connected, faithfully constitutional and unapologetically Christ-Centered. We want to focus on helping our congregations succeed, our Teaching and Ruling Elders to know and lean on one another, our processes and meetings distinctively Presbyterian, while focusing not on ourselves but on our Leader, Christ.

You can learn more about our presbytery on the website:

www.presbyteryoftampabay.com

What, if anything, do I need to know about the February 21st, 2019 meeting of Presbytery?

So what interesting tidbits should I be aware of for our upcoming meeting? The Packet is always a lot of reading, so here are the cliff notes, just to make sure you don't miss the more interesting bits:

- The Committee on Bills and Overtures will present its recommendations to the Presbytery regarding the vote on proposed amendments to the Book of Order from the 223rd General Assembly
 - pp. 22-44
- The Commission on Ministry will present two church mergers for approval: First Port Richey and Trinity PC of Seven Springs, and Palma Ceia and Bel-Mar
 - First Port Richey and Trinity PC of Seven Springs:
pp. 47-64
 - Palma Ceia and Bel-Mar
pp. 65-75
- The Coordinating Team (CT) will recommend a new Presbytery staff position, titled Emerging Ministries Associate as well as an Acting Stated Clerk, Bill Wildhack
 - p. 79-80
- The Coordinating Team (CT) will also recommend a budget for 2019
 - P. 83-86

Docket
Presbytery of Tampa Bay Stated Meeting
Thursday February 21, 2019
First Presbyterian Church, St. Petersburg, Florida

- 8:15 a.m. Registration and Lunch Ticket Sales begin (Chapel)
- 9:00 a.m. Call to Order (Sanctuary) Moderator Loli Ros Reiter
 Declaration of Quorum
 Approval of Docketed Agenda
 Greetings from Host Dawn Conti
 Introduction of First Time Commissioners and Corresponding Members
 Appointment of Tellers
- 9:10 a.m. Consent Agenda (summary on p. 11)
 Report of the Board of Trustees (p. 12)
 Report of the Commission on Church Vitality (p. 13)
 Report of the Commission on Preparation (p. 14)
 Report of Beth-El Farmworker Ministry (pp. 15-18)
 Report of Cedarkirk Camp and Conference Center (p. 19)
 Report of the Presbyterian Women (p. 20)
 Report of the Stated Clerk (p. 87)
- 9:15 a.m. Worship (with necrology)
- 10:10 a.m. Mini-Break (Last chance to purchase lunch tickets)
- 10:25 a.m. Reports:
 Report of the Committee on Bills and Overtures (pp. 22-44) Robert Shaw
- 11:00 a.m. Networking Groups (See p. 4 for details)
- 12:00 p.m. Lunch (Order of the Day – Fellowship Hall)
- 12:45 p.m. Reports (con't) (Fellowship Hall):
 Report of the Commission on Ministry (COM) (pp. 45-75) Laurie Palmer
 Coach and Coordinator Patrice Hatley
- 1:30 p.m. Plenary:
 Helping Kids as a Guardian Ad Litem Panel
- 2:15 p.m. Reports (con't):
 Report of Nominating and Representation (NRC) (pp. 76, 88-90) Vicki ByRoade
 Report of Coordinating Team (CT) (pp. 77-86) Libby Shannon
- 2:55 p.m. Reports of Staff, Officers and Partners
 Mission Partners (pp. 15-19) John Reiter and Kathy Dain
 Moderator Loli Ros Reiter
 Vice Moderator Jonathan Owen
 Stated Clerk (p. 87) David Baker
- 3:25 p.m. Unfinished Business and Thanks
- 3:30 p.m. Adjournment with Prayer Moderator Loli Ros Reiter

**Consent Agenda Summary
Presbytery of Tampa Bay
February 21, 2019 Stated Meeting
(check full reports for all details)**

Reports without Motions:

Report of Board of Trustees
Report of Commission on Church Vitality (CCV)
Report of Commission on Preparation for Ministry (CPM)
Report of Beth-El Farmworker Ministry
Report of Cedarkirk Camp and Conference Center
Report of Presbyterian Women

Reports with Motions:

Stated Clerk:

1. That all requests for excused absences be granted for today's meeting.

Report of the Board of Trustees of the Tampa Bay Presbytery
To the Presbytery of Tampa Bay
February 21, 2019

Motions for Presbytery

1. None

Actions Taken

1. Approved the motion: “St. Andrews of Dunedin be allowed to list the New Port Richey campus subject to the Board of Trustee’s receiving a Competitive Market Analysis, a listing agreement and approval of the St. Andrew Dunedin session.” 12-12-2018
2. Trustees concur with the Commission on Ministry motion to approve the merger of Palma Ceia Presbyterian Church with Bel-Mar Presbyterian Church and also recommend Presbytery approval. 12-12-2018
3. Approved changing regular trustee meetings to the fourth Thursday of the month at 4:00 pm at Palma Ceia Presbyterian Church. 12-12-2018
4. Trustees concur with the Commission on Ministry motion to approve the merger of First Presbyterian Church of Port Richey with Trinity Presbyterian Church of Seven Springs, and also recommend Presbytery approval. 01-24-2019
5. Approved modification of repayment terms for a \$70,000 loan (given in October 2018) to First Presbyterian Church Lake Alfred, which reduced loan payments from \$2,500 to \$2,000 per quarter with payments due at the end rather than the beginning of each quarter with the first payment due on 3/31/2019. 01-24-2019
6. Approved the sale of a house located at 1430 45th Ave. NE, St. Petersburg, FL by Northeast Presbyterian Church – St. Petersburg 01-24-2019
7. Approved a loan application form and process that will be used for all future loan requests. 01-24-2019
8. Reviewed and supported the 2019 budget as presented by the Treasurer. 01-24-2019
9. Approved addition of Norman Hatter as a signatory to the Texas Presbytery Foundation account and presbytery checking account. 01-24-2019

Items for Information

1. Texas Presbytery Foundation (TPF) reported that from December 16, 2016 to December 31, 2018 the fund returned an annualized 6.73% from inception compared to the benchmark Composite Index Return of 3.19%.
2. Continued to support various congregations through their property needs and ministry.
3. Held a successful trustee retreat on December 12, 2018 at Cedarkirk, which was attended by all Trustees, and CCV Chair Micki Robinson, COM Chair Laurie Palmer, Moderator Loli Reiter, Coach & Coordinator Patrice Hatley, and Stated Clerk David Baker.

Commission on Church Vitality Report Presbytery Meeting 2/21/2019

Items for action:

None

REMINDER!!!

The Commission strongly urges leaders and members of our smaller congregations to attend and participate in the synod small church conference March 15th-17th at Epworth by the Sea, St. Simon's Island. The Keynote Speaker is the Rev. Kathryn Threadgill, PCUSA Associate for Vital Congregations.

The Commission is supporting participation in two ways. A bus has been chartered to take participants to the conference. THERE IS NO CHARGE FOR THE BUS!!! PLEASE REMEMBER TO RESERVE YOUR PLACE ON THE BUS!!

Secondly, the Commission has scholarship funds available for those who wish to participate but would find it a hardship to do so.

Technically, registration closes on February 17th – so, if you haven't made a commitment yet, please do so ASAP!

The Commission on Church Vitality and the Commission on Ministry had a joint retreat with the Rev. Threadgill. She introduced the commissions to the Vital Congregations program which the denomination is developing as a tool to help local congregations deepen their vitality. More information about the program is available at presbyterianmission.org. Vital Congregations is listed under Programs and Services. There is a vital congregations toolkit and a revitalization manual available there.

The Commission works to support a variety of financial needs in the presbytery. Therefore, the commission has:

- Given funds to support mission projects, such as feeding the hungry and homeless.
- Worked with congregations to look toward the future, enabling those congregations to convert loans (granted by the trustees) to grants
- Responded to requests that are geared toward helping congregations seek and live into new vitality where they are.
- Granted scholarships to church leaders without continuing education funds.

Our goal is to be more than a fund distributing organization. Like many congregations, we are still seeking do discern more fully God's call to us in this presbytery.

**Commission for Preparation on Ministry
Report to the Presbytery of Tampa Bay
February 21, 2019**

ACTION ITEMS FOR PRESBYTERY:

NONE

Members of CPM:

East region: Kathy Vousden, Jack Taylor, Paul Suich (CPM Vice Moderator and Recording Clerk), Fred Halde, Jo Ahearn
Central region: Jenny Sumner Carswell, Reg Dickey, Sally Speer, Deb Belusa (CPM Moderator), Ken Hubbell
West region: George Meese, Miguel Santamaria, Bruce Mulder, Kathy Bardin, Dawn Haeger

Under Care Summary:

Candidates:

- Becky Bryan: (Christ, Largo – graduated from Austin 5/2018) Pastoral Associate at Forest Hills
- Andrew Rametta: (Palma Ceia – graduated from Columbia 5/2014)
- Jeff Davis: (Trinity, Clearwater – at Dubuque) On track for May 2019 graduation

Inquirers:

- Ashley Parsons: (Palma Ceia – At Dubuque) Studies are on hold. Continuing treatment for cancer. Family requests prayer
- Leah Higginbotham: (First, Lakeland - At Asbury) The session of FPC, Lakeland has submitted form 5B approving Leah's movement to candidacy.
- Eileen Jewell (Palma Ceia – graduated from McCormick, 5/2016) Completed residency Tampa General; Pool chaplain at Tampa General. Deb Belusa requested Ken Hubbell's help in getting Form 5B from Palma Ceia session so Eileen can be moved to candidacy.
- Malissa Garcia: (PC of Palm Harbor – At Dubuque)
- Becky Higman: (First, St. Petersburg – At Dubuque)
- Brian Morgan: (First, Lakeland – At Asbury) Anticipates completing MDiv late 2019.

Projects for the 2019 year:

1. Update CPM Manual
2. Update Seminary debt policy with respect to the Board of Pensions requirements
3. Develop a protocol for the new Vocational Assessment process
4. Develop a protocol for the new Background checks
5. CPM training in April or May

What is Beth-El Farmworker Ministry?

Beth-El is an intentional ministry to support farm workers and those in our community living in poverty by addressing their immediate and long-term needs. Our mission is to address mind, spirit and body through:

- Hunger Relief
- Education
- Healthcare
- Spiritual Development

The mission supports these efforts on campus through:

- Tuesday food pantry and direct outreach to farmworkers
- Migrant Daycare, and k-8th grade public charter school operated through RCMA.
- Free Dental Clinic, with medical and legal services provided through mission partners.
- Spanish worship services in the Reformed tradition.

Who is Beth-El ?

Beth-El is a local ministry begun by Presbyterians. The mission began in 1976 as a worship service for the Hispanic farmworkers who traveled to Florida to pick our crops. It soon grew to include health and human services in addition to being a place of worship. Beth-El is a registered 501c3 non-profit through the Presbyterian Church U.S.A. Its board of directors is comprised of members from its three covenant partners: Peace River Presbytery, the Presbytery of Tampa Bay (PCUSA) and the Missions Ministry Team of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. Each covenant partner supports Beth-El financially, physically, and spiritually and is an equal stakeholder in the mission's governance and vision. 95% of financial and in-kind dollar donations go directly into supporting the mission's programs.

Where is Beth-El?

Beth-El Farmworker Ministry is located a few miles north of the Ellenton Outlet Mall at 18240 US 301 South in Wimauma, Florida. The mission borders southeastern Hillsborough and northern Manatee counties.

Want to Learn More?

To discover all that Beth-El Farmworker Ministry offers and how you can become involved, please contact Rev. Kathleen (Kathy) Dain at 813-633-1548 ext. 223 or kathy@beth-el.org

Beth-El
Farmworker Ministry, Inc.

Good Things are Happening at Beth-El!



The New Year got off to a running start this January as Kindermusik teachers from around the country arrived at Beth-El on January 1st to lead classes for the children of our community.

Kindermusik is an early childhood education program that combines music and movement. This type of program is especially important for many of the children in our community who require additional teaching to improve their cognitive motor skills. Our hope is that one day we might be able to offer these types of classes at the mission year-round.

Children are an important part of the ministry of Beth-El. Over 300 children participate every day in campus activities through the Migrant HeadStart and k-8th grade charter school operated by RCMA. Children also represent a large portion of Sunday's worship at the mission's Sunday services.

Like every parent, all of us want to see our kids succeed in life, Beth-El's mission is to help provide the tools and resources to make that happen. One of the biggest challenges many of our mission kids face is the lack of advocates and mentors to help them succeed. It was very sad to hear one mom comment recently that she did not want her children to *"be like her"*. This mom, like so many in our community had limited opportunities for education. She can't help her children with homework because she never had the opportunity to advance beyond a 4th grade education. That is why whether 5 or 55, education is a core ministry of Beth-El. The mission strives to include an education component in each of its ministries, even the new dental clinic has become a resource for students studying dental hygiene to earn practical experience.



In January, the mission approved scholarships for 10 students to continue their college education, and even though it is only February, plans are already underway for a full summer of children and youth activities. This summer the mission will host three 3 weeks of Vacation Bible School for up to 80 local children. Leading VBS are Trinity Presbyterian (Port Richey), United Methodist Church of Lakeland, and Darnestown Presbyterian Church of southern Maryland. This is Trinity's fifth year leading VBS at the mission. All of us are excited to see how each of these churches will transform the hallways of our mission, and the lives of those they encounter. If your church would like to help support our youth and families, please contact pastor Tamara at pastor@beth-el.org or our outreach manager, Javier Izaguirre at javier@beth-el.org.

The ministry of Beth-El continues to grow despite recent loses in revenue. The mission now offers free legal assistance in the areas of domestic violence, immigration, and human trafficking through its campus partner, Gulf Coast Legal Services. Gulf Coast Legal Services is the newest member of the mission's Health & Wellness Campus—a four year initiative to provide health and human services vital to the welfare of farmworking families all on our Beth-El campus. In addition to the dental clinic and legal services, plans are underway to add a free medical clinic and resource center to the campus within the next two years. This project is one more step to support farmworkers and our neighbors in need by addressing their immediate and long-term needs.

Thank you for your continued support of our ministry!

Kathy

Rev. Kathleen (Kathy) Dain
Executive Director

Here is a brief synopsis of current programs underway at Beth-El:

Tuesday Food Distribution	At present we are serving between 500 to 700 families a week through this pantry. Your church can help by holding a food drive of non-perishable canned goods. We also need volunteers to help distribute the food on Tuesdays, and package and prepare bags on other days during the week.
Step Up for Success	Mentors are needed to help students with basic life and job skills. These include helping students complete their required testing to earn a high school diploma, or preparing to enter the workplace.
Dental Clinic	The clinic is currently open two Saturdays a month. We need volunteer dentists, hygienists, and nurses to help support this ministry. Sovereign Immunity is offered to professionals once they complete an application with Beth-El and the Florida Department of Health.
Summer Youth Programs	Support Beth-El children and youth through a scholarship to Cedarkirk, Back to School Drive, leading a week of VBS or through a customized program designed by our staff and your mission team.
Outreach to Farms	This program takes resources directly to farmworkers who are unable to travel to the mission because of work or transportation issues. Volunteers are needed to help package and distribute these resources. A monthly meal is also prepared and served during the farming season.
Worship	Nuevo Camino at Beth-El leads worship services on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings. Volunteers are needed to help support their music ministry and Sunday school classes.

Greetings from Nuevo Camino at the Beth-El Farmworker Ministry!

Thank You!

Members of the Nuevo Camino worshipping community would like to express their gratitude to all of the congregations who sent gifts, sweatshirts, jackets, bicycles and sponsored families through the Adopt A Family Program during the Christmas season.

Please continue to hold our community in your prayers as we move forward into the future God has for us. Leaders from Nuevo Camino and the Beth-El Board continue to meet regularly to pray and make plans for the future in the areas of Christian Education, youth fellowship, Wednesday worship, improving Nuevo Camino's visibility in the community, ideas for helping people access transportation to worship and youth group events, additional fundraising opportunities in the community and stewardship. We are also organizing to apply for grants and to seek additional funding to support our families through additional discipleship offerings, ESOL and tutoring programs, and workshops to offer resources for strengthening our families.

Our music ministry continues to grow and we have found that some of our sound equipment, especially microphones, need to be replaced. Please contact me if you think you can support our music ministry.

Peace and Blessings,
 Tamara Leonard Lara
 Mission Pastor, Nuevo Camino at Beth-El

Beth-El

Farmworker Ministry, Inc.



Volunteer Opportunities

- Food Distribution - Tuesday 8:45am to 2pm
- Outreach to Farms – Wed/Thur 11am to 2pm*
- Prepackaging Deliveries - M/W/TH/F 9am to Noon
- Dental Clinic – Monthly M/Sa 7:30a to 2pm
- Step Up for Success Mentors – Tuesday 9am to 2pm
- Summer Youth Programs – Various times

Volunteers packaging or working in the mission’s food distribution may need to stand for long periods of time. Some light and heavy lifting may be required. Some knowledge of Spanish is helpful, but not required. Volunteers interested in becoming a mentor in the Step Up for Success program or Dental Clinic must be bi-lingual. Additional Training may also be required.

*The outreach to farmworkers in the fields is seasonal (September through April).

I would like to become more involved at Beth-El Mission as a Volunteer:

- Summer Camp Scholarships
- Back to School Program
- Food Pantry
- VBS Supplies
- Lead VBS
- College Scholarships
- Organize a Workgroup
- Dental Clinic
- Organize a Food Drive
- Food Pantry
- Organize a Clothing Drive
- Mission’s Greatest Need

I would like to donate \$_____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Beth-El Farmworker Ministry, Inc.

A Covenant Partner of Peace River Presbytery, The Presbytery of Tampa Bay and the Mission Ministry Team of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church



Cedarkirk

*A place apart to build up
the body of Christ in love.*

CAMP & CONFERENCE CENTER

Gearing Up for Another Incredible Summer Sharing God's Love!

It's "Cedarkirk Cookie Bag" day and that means we are thrilled to be sharing summer camp information, publicity materials, and cookies to all the churches at this presbytery meeting. This summer's theme, is PEACE WORKS and we will explore together the Biblical concept of peace. Using stories from the Bible and concepts from a number of cultures, campers will better understand peace from a variety of perspectives. Campers will learn that the God who created and sustains us wants us to live in harmony, and that true peace is achieved through small actions and decisions we take part in every day! Please help by picking up your summer camp "cookie bag" and then spreading the word about the unique opportunities available this summer. We are also looking for volunteer nurses and worship leaders for the week-long sessions. If you have any questions, please contact the camp office at (813) 685-4224.

Cedarkirk Traveling Day Camp Comes to Your Church!

Again, in 2019 we are thrilled to offer this program. We partner with your church to provide exciting and engaging faith-based day camps for the children in your congregation and surrounding community. Our day camp sessions for 2019 are filling up quickly. For pricing, availability, and details, please visit www.cedarkirk.org/tdc.

Capital Campaign Update

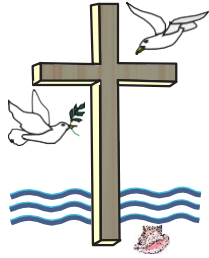
Cedarkirk exists to serve the camp, conference, and retreat needs of Peace River Presbytery and the Presbytery of Tampa Bay and their constituent churches. As a ministry of the presbyteries, Cedarkirk provides, maintains, and develops facilities, providing a "place apart" for camping, conferences, and retreats for local churches, governing bodies of the PC(USA), and other organizations. Cedarkirk ministered to more than **19,000 people** last year through meaningful programs, unique retreat opportunities, and a continued commitment to being a place apart.

The **future growth of this ministry is hindered** by the physical capacity and arrangement of the current dining hall. Currently, the dining hall and kitchen are too small and **the current space is not accessible** by all of Cedarkirk's guests. Cedarkirk is in the midst of a \$4 million capital campaign that focuses on improving the accessibility of our buildings and expanding our facilities so that we may better minister to those we serve. We are delighted to report that **we have raised over 1.5 million dollars!** Our goal is to reach 2.5 million, enabling Cedarkirk to break ground on the dining hall phase of this effort.

The Presbytery of Tampa Bay is offering a generous **\$100,000 matching opportunity** for gifts donated by churches or individuals in the presbytery! Please learn more at www.cedarkirk.org/campaign. **We invite you to consider joining with Cedarkirk in this effort.** This ministry has been a blessing in the lives of so many children, youth, and adults for the past 48 years and **we are grateful for your history of support** and partnership in sharing God's love.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Confirmation Retreat – <i>A comprehensive and engaging weekend for confirmation classes.</i>	March 8-10
The Shepherds' Sabbath - <i>A free retreat of respite and renewal for church professionals.</i>	April 22-24
Spring Bash - <i>24 hours of camp fun for 2nd-5th grade Sunday School classes.</i>	March 29-30, April 5-6
Summer Camp - <i>Week-long, residential camp programs for children, youth, and adults.</i>	June 2 - Aug. 2
Traveling Day - <i>Day camp experiences in partnership with local churches.</i>	June 3 - Aug. 2
Challenge to Change - <i>A unique mission-trip program designed for a variety of groups.</i>	Year-round
Family Retreat - <i>Come and enjoy a family retreat experience like no other!</i>	Aug. 30 - Sept. 1
Falltastic - <i>24 hours of camp fun for 2nd-5th grade Sunday School classes!</i>	Sept. 27-28
Senior Adult Retreat - <i>A day event with a dynamic speaker geared toward our senior friends!</i>	October 9
Silent Retreat - <i>A guided retreat designed for people seeking space to listen to God!</i>	October 13-15
Fusion Youth Retreat - <i>A Cedarkirk event for middle and high school youth!</i>	Nov. 8-10 & Nov. 15-17
Christmas Retreat - <i>A little bit of summer camp at Christmas time!</i>	December 20-22



Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery of Tampa Bay



Moderator's Report
Ellen Stoup
Presbytery Meeting – First Presbyterian – St. Petersburg
February 21, 2019

Recent events:

We had our Annual Gathering at Temple Terrace Presbyterian Church on February 16, 2019. The worship service was led by Rev. Robert Shaw and Rev. Laurie Palmer and our installation of leaders was conducted by Rev. Loli Reiter. Three of the women who had gone to our Churchwide Gathering in August gave a report on different parts of the Gathering.

Upcoming Events:

On Saturday, August 10, we will be hosting Rev. Eugenia Gamble, the author of the Horizon Bible Study, at First Presbyterian Church in Lakeland. We have also invited the women from Central Florida Presbytery and Peace River Presbytery to join us.

Our Synod Triennial Gathering will take place at Epworth by the Sea, St. Simons, Georgia, October 25 – 27, 2019.

HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION



Transportation

PSTA Bus Passes

Emergency Food & Supply Pantry

Tampa Bay Ray's Clean Sweep Day Stop

Shower & Laundry Facilities at Ready for Life

Beth's Boutique

Emergency & Ready for Work new clothing through Beth Dillinger Foundation

Financial Literacy Classes

Upon completion, youth receive \$750 towards housing expenses

Locker Service

Temporary safe keeping available

SERVICES PROVIDED

Ready for Life's mission is to provide support, resources and guidance former foster care youth need to properly transition to adulthood.

OPEN DOORS & OPEN ARMS

We are a family-like community that serves, inspires and empowers young adults, ages 15 to 25, that have transitioned out of foster care (and their children) to be Ready for Life.



LIFELINE SUPPORT

Mental Health Counseling

Mentoring

One on One connection for youth ages 18+

Youth Specialists

"Experts" who know all too well the issues facing youth aging out of foster care

Youth Council

Monthly information program that provides resources specific to this population

Mommy & Me

Support Program - breaking the cycle of foster care & child abuse

Open Office Friday

Every Friday youth, and the community are invited to RFL for social engagement, life skills and fun



EDUCATION & EMPLOYMENT

GED Program at RFL

In partnership with Pinellas County Schools

Scholarship for GED Testing fees

Key to Independence

A program that provides the opportunity for drivers licenses, testing fees, substance abuse course, drivers education, and insurance

Future Plans

A self-awareness and career exploration program

Ready for Work

Employment readiness, job coaching and career opportunity program

Job Core

Application Assistance



Ready for Life

Changing Lives Beyond Foster Care

2300 Tall Pines Dr., #100, Largo, FL 33771
(727) 954 - 3989 | info@readyforlifepinellas.org
www.readyforlifepinellas.org

BILLS AND OVERTURES COMMITTEE

Report and recommendations on Proposed Amendments to the Constitution from the 223rd General Assembly from the Bills and Overtures Committee of the Presbytery of Tampa Bay.

18-A. Election of Elders and Deacons. Recommend Approval

A congregation's nominating committee will be made up of at least three people. One from the session, and a majority from the congregation not currently on the session.

18-B.1. On restoration from renunciation of jurisdiction. Recommend Approval

Any former minister who has renounced jurisdiction and later wants to be reinstated must go back to original presbytery so they can check the reason for the dismissal.

18-B.2. On restoration of a disciplinary case. Recommend Approval

If the investigation of the case is interrupted or stopped by renunciation of jurisdiction, then there is no time limit on restarting the case.

18-C. On Partisan Statements. Recommend Disapproval

This would limit the authority of the Church to resist ideological and political injustices as expected by the Declaration of Barmen (C-8.18) and the Confession of Belhar (C-10.8). Existing principles provide abundant guidance.

18-D. On laboring outside the bounds of a Presbytery. Recommend Approval

A minister seeking to work in another presbytery must have permission from both presbyteries.

18-E. On Presbytery as Pastor to Ministers. Recommend Approval

Presbyteries shall be open to communication to serve as pastor for all church workers.

18-F. On Welcoming to the Table. Recommend Approval

Clarifies that a "first communion" service is not intended by W-4.0202.

18-G. On Sexual Abuse as a Disciplinary Offense. Recommend Approval

Sexual abuse shall be considered contrary to scripture. Needs to be in Book of Order

18-H.1 On Time Limits for Sexual Abuse. Recommend Approval

There will be no time limit for reporting of an offense against someone who knew of abuse.

18-H.2. On Capacity for Consent. Recommend Approval

Clarifies that sexual abuse includes persons who lack the capacity to consent for *any reason whatsoever*.

Proposed Amendments to the Constitution

Proposed Amendments to the *Book of Order*

Approved by the 223rd General Assembly (2018) and
recommended to the presbyteries for their vote.



Including: Note from the Stated Clerk, a list of the proposed amendments with advice from the Advisory Committee on the Constitution, and an index.

NOTE FROM THE STATED CLERK

The 223rd General Assembly (2018) approved and recommended to the presbyteries for their affirmative or negative votes proposed changes in the language of the *Book of Order* that, if approved, will amend the Constitution.

With each proposed amendment, reference is made to an item number that indicates the General Assembly Committee report and action related to each proposed amendment. These item numbers also indicate where to find other background information from various entities that was available electronically to the General Assembly commissioners. This information may be accessed through PC-Biz at <https://www.pc-biz.org>. The item number references will also be found in the *Minutes of the 223rd General Assembly (2018)*, which are expected to be available to the presbyteries by the time they consider the amendments. The full advice of the Advisory Committee on the Constitution (ACC) and other advisory entities can be found immediately following the item in the *Minutes* for which the advice is given.

Unless otherwise indicated, new language to be added to the *Book of Order* is in italics and any language to be stricken will have a line through it. In providing rationale and advice for each item, direct quotations from the various groups that presented or commented on these items before the General Assembly is used whenever possible.

Presbyteries must report to the Office of the General Assembly a separate vote on each proposed amendment. A presbytery may vote on the amendments in a consent agenda or omnibus motion, as long as each proposed amendment is identified separately. Presbyteries are required to report their votes by June 23, 2019. However, in order to make the changes and publish the 2019–2021 *Book of Order* in a timely manner, receipt of votes prior to this deadline would be appreciated (by May 10, 2019, if possible).

Thank you for your careful and prayerful consideration of these proposed amendments.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "J. Herbert Nelson, II".

The Reverend Dr. J. Herbert Nelson, II
Stated Clerk of the General Assembly

INDEX

PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

Form of Government

G-2.04011
G-2.05093
G-3.01048
G-3.030612
G-3.030713

Directory for Worship

W-4.020215

Rules of Discipline

D-2.0203b16
D-10.0401b18
D-10.0401c(1).....18
D-10.0401d5

Index of Proposed Amendments.....20

**18-A. Election of Ruling Elders and Deacons
On Amending G-2.0401 (Item 06-11)**

The 223rd General Assembly (2018) directed the Stated Clerk to send the following proposed amendment to the presbyteries for their affirmative or negative votes:

Shall G-2.0401 of the Form of Government be amended as follows? [Text to be deleted is shown with strike through; text to be added or inserted is shown in *italic*.]

“G-2.0401 Election of Ruling Elders and Deacons

“Ruling elders and deacons are men and women elected by the congregation from among its members. The nomination and election of ruling elders and deacons shall express the rich diversity of the congregation’s membership and shall guarantee participation and inclusiveness (F-1.0403). Ruling elders and deacons shall be nominated by a committee elected by the congregation, drawn from and representative of its membership. ~~Congregations may provide by their own rule for a congregational nominating committee, provided that the committee shall consist of at least three active members of the congregation, and shall include at least one ruling elder who is currently serving on the session.~~ *Congregations may provide by their own rule for a congregational nominating committee. The rule shall meet the following criteria: (1) the minimum size of the committee as specified in the rule shall be at least three persons; (2) at least one member of the committee shall be an elder currently serving on session; and (3) a majority of those persons on the committee who are eligible to vote shall consist of persons not currently serving on session. The pastor shall serve ex officio and without vote. When elections are held, full opportunity shall always be given to the congregation for nomination from the floor of the congregational meeting by any active member of the congregation. A majority of all the active members present and voting shall be required to elect.*”

Rationale

This proposed amendment originates from the Presbytery of Grace as Item 06-11. The Presbyteries of Grand Canyon, Muskingum Valley, Huntington, and de Cristo concurred. The Presbytery of Grace provided the following rationale [edited].

This proposed amendment clarifies the somewhat ambiguous language regarding the nominating committee membership.

The proposed changes set the minimum size of the nominating committee at three members, not including the pastor. This is ideal for small congregations yet also provides flexibility for churches to add more from this minimum.

The goal is to provide clarity while preserving the overall permission-giving nature of the Form of Government.

Advice from the Advisory Committee on the Constitution

The Advisory Committee on the Constitution advised the 223rd General Assembly (2018) to approve Item 06-11 as amended providing the following advice [edited]:

The Presbytery of Grace presents proposed language to clarify the minimum size of a congregational nominating committee and the requirement that a majority of the voting members of a congregational nominating committee be members-at-large of the congregation.

The proposed amendment provides helpful clarification to G-2.0401. The minimum size of a congregational nominating committee shall be three members, at least one member of which must be a ruling elder in active service on

the session. The minimum size of three is appropriate for smaller congregations. There is no maximum size for a congregational nominating committee.

The proposed amendment adds clarity and is consistent with past practice. The majority of a congregational nominating committee should be members-at-large of the congregation, not ruling elders currently serving on the session.

The Assembly Committee on Church Polity and Ordered Ministry (06) voted to approve the proposed amendment as amended 54/0. The 223rd General Assembly (2018) approved the committee's recommendation with amendment 478/3. (See *Minutes*, 2018, Part I, pp. 69, 72, 592.)

For the full report of Item 06-11, go to <https://www.pc-biz.org/#/committee/3000008/business>

18-B. Renunciation of Jurisdiction

Background

These two proposed amendments, 18-B.1 and 18-B.2, (Item 06-09, Recommendations 1. and 2.) come out of the intent to clarify congregational prohibition and individual jurisdiction when a PC(USA) minister of Word and Sacrament renounces jurisdiction while in the midst of disciplinary proceedings and then wants to rejoin the PC(USA). [Editor’s Note: The General Assembly approved the combination of two proposed amendments in one item. The advice on each of these proposed amendments come from the separate items, (Items 06-09 and 06-07) not on the combined items. In addition, the General Assembly asked that a third item similar be referred to the Rules of Discipline Task Force (Item 06-09, Recommendation 3.).]

18-B.1.

On Amending G-2.0509 (Item 06-09)

The 223rd General Assembly (2018) directed the Stated Clerk to send the following proposed amendments to the presbyteries for their affirmative or negative votes:

Shall G-2.0509 be amended by striking the fourth paragraph and adding two new paragraphs to read as follows: [Text to be deleted is shown with a strike-through; text to be added is shown as italic.]

~~“Whenever a former minister of the Word and Sacrament has renounced jurisdiction in the midst of a disciplinary proceeding as the accused, that former minister of the Word and Sacrament shall not be permitted to perform any work, paid or volunteer, in any congregation or entity under the jurisdiction of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) unless and until the person rejoins the church, comes forward and resubmits to the disciplinary process.”~~

“No congregation or entity under the jurisdiction of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) shall be permitted to employ, for pay or as a volunteer, a former minister of the Word and Sacrament (teaching elder) who has renounced jurisdiction in the midst of a disciplinary proceeding as the accused.”

“Any former minister of the Word and Sacrament (teaching elder) who has renounced jurisdiction and later wants to be restored to office can be restored only through application to the presbytery in which he or she renounced jurisdiction for restoration to office, in which case the provisions of D-10.0401d and D-12.0200 shall apply.”

Rationale

The proposed amendment 18-B.1 originated from the Presbytery of Central Florida as Item 06-09 and proposed amendment 18-B.2 originated from the Presbytery of The Twin Cities Area as Item 06-07 Recommendation 2 and added to Item 06-09 by the General Assembly. The Presbyteries of Albany, Grand Canyon, Muskingum Valley, Newton, North Alabama, Tropical Florida, Wabash Valley and de Cristo concurred with Item 06-09 and the Presbyteries of Albany, Denver, Grand Canyon, Missouri River Valley, Wabash Valley and de Cristo concurred with former Item 06-07 including Item 06-07 recommendation 2. The Presbytery of Central Florida provided the following rationale for Item 06-09 [edited].

The [former] amendments to G-2.0509, while intended to protect the church and its entities from ministers who have left the church without submitting to the constitutional process for establishing guilt or innocence and providing for repentance when repentance is needed, have instead created a situation in which the administration of justice, as defined

by the amendment, is impossible to carry out. By definition of the section itself, a person who has renounced jurisdiction no longer holds membership in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). The preamble to the Rules of Discipline defines the limits of church discipline as follows:

... The purpose of discipline is to honor God by making clear the significance of membership in the body of Christ; to preserve the purity of the church by nourishing the *individual within the life of the believing community*; to achieve justice and compassion for all participants involved; to correct or restrain wrongdoing in order to bring *members* to repentance and restoration; to uphold the dignity of those who have been harmed by disciplinary offenses; to restore the unity of the church by removing the causes of discord and division; and to secure the just, speedy, and economical determination of proceedings. ... (D-1.0101, emphasis added)

Since church discipline exists for the welfare of the believing community and applies to members of that community, a former minister of the Word and Sacrament (teaching elder) who has renounced jurisdiction is no longer a member by action of the presbytery that removes his or her name from its rolls. In any complaint, the Rules of Discipline would apply to the congregation or other entity which employed that former minister. Should a former minister of the Word and Sacrament who has renounced jurisdiction wish to be restored to the ordered ministry of minister of the Word and Sacrament (teaching elder), the process for restoration is spelled out in the Rules of Discipline, D-12.0200.

Advice from the Advisory Committee on the Constitution

The Advisory Committee on the Constitution advised the 223rd General Assembly (2018) to answer Item 06-09 with action on Item 06-07 providing the following advice [edited]. The Advisory Committee on the Constitution advised the 223rd General Assembly (2018) to answer Item 06-07 recommendation #1 with disapproval and refer recommendation #2 to the Rules of Discipline Task Force. They provided the following advice [edited].

Both Items 06-07 and 06-09 would amend G-2.0509 on renunciation of jurisdiction. Each proposes correcting a perceived flaw in the language of the last paragraph of G-2.0509. The approaches are different and do not achieve the same end. There is a comprehensive description of the issues related to renunciation of jurisdiction in the advice on Item 06-07 that will provide helpful background for consideration of this overture as well.

There are particular issues inherent in Item 06-09 [18-B.1]. The first sentence of Item 06-09 addresses the actions of a congregation. The second sentence of Item 06-09 [18-B.1], addresses actions of a former minister. Each part is discussed separately below.

... The Advisory Committee on the Constitution finds that the first paragraph would place requirements on the congregation or entity under the jurisdiction of the PC(USA), rather than on a former minister who has renounced the jurisdiction of this church and, therefore, is no longer subject to its jurisdiction and discipline. Section G-2.0509 is about ministers of the Word and Sacrament and their actions in renouncing jurisdiction. Insertion of requirements for a congregation or entity under the jurisdiction of the PC(USA) interrupts the flow and sense of this section.

... The Advisory Committee on the Constitution finds that the second paragraph presents some matters of concern.

- Having struck the requirement for rejoining the church in the existing text of G-2.0509, if approved, the new language would eliminate any requirement for membership before “application” for restoration.
- It would require “application” to the presbytery. “Application” is not defined, nor are there any criteria for considering such an “application.”
- Most significantly, it assumes that renunciation of jurisdiction is equivalent to removal from ordered ministry in judicial process. A person who seeks to be restored after the censure of removal (D-12.0201) has subjected him or herself to the discipline of the church and satisfied the requirements for restoration. A person who has renounced jurisdiction of this church in the midst of a disciplinary proceeding has avoided the discipline of this church. A 1989 authoritative interpretation specifies that one who renounces jurisdiction and seeks to return to ministry of the Word and Sacrament “should first come again under the jurisdiction of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) as a member of a particular church and then initiate the process and procedures found in G-2.06, Preparation for Ministry (formerly G-14.0300, Preparation for the Office of Minister of the Word and Sacrament).” The proposed language of Item 06-09 conflicts with this and would not require membership in the church.

[Editor's note: As noted in their advice above, the ACC provided advice on Item 06-07, which also applies to Item 6-09 since they recommended answering Item 06-09 with Item 06-07. The applicable advice is as follows.]

Return to Ordered Ministry

When a former minister renounced jurisdiction while a disciplinary case against him or her was pending, and now desires to return to ordered ministry in the PC(USA), additional process is required. Renunciation is not the removal of a person's status in ordered ministry, but a voluntary abandonment of it. A minister of the Word and Sacrament who renounced jurisdiction may not be *restored* to ordered ministry and the office of minister of Word and Sacrament because the person voluntarily acted in a manner to negate that status. This is particularly true where the minister renounced while a disciplinary case was pending against him or her and thus refused to be subject to church discipline.

1. A person who has renounced jurisdiction while subject to a disciplinary process and who is a minister in good standing of another denomination may seek to have those credentials recognized under G-2.0505.
2. A person who has renounced jurisdiction while subject to a disciplinary process and who is not a minister in good standing in another denomination or whose credentials are not recognized by the PC(USA), must do so as a member of a congregation through the process of G-2.06, Preparation for Ministry.

18-B.2.

On Amending D-10.0401d (Item 06-09)

Shall D-10.0401d be amended to read as follows? [Text to be deleted is shown with a strike-through; text to be added or inserted is shown as italic.]

~~“For instances where a former minister of the Word and Sacrament comes forward in self-accusation to undergo a disciplinary process to regain permission to perform work under the jurisdiction of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) (G-2.0509) who renounced jurisdiction while being accused in a disciplinary case rejoins the church, no time limit from the time of the commission of the alleged offense to the filing of charges shall apply. Charges based on all accusations that had been made by the time that the former minister of the Word and Sacrament had renounced jurisdiction may be brought regardless of the date on which any such offense is alleged to have occurred.”~~

Rationale

The proposed amendment 18-B.1 originates from the Presbytery of Central Florida as Item 06-09 and proposed amendment 18-B.2 from the Presbytery of The Twin Cities Area as Item 06-07 Recommendation 2. The Presbyteries of Albany, Grand Canyon, Muskingum Valley, Newton, North Alabama, Tropical Florida, Wabash Valley, and de Cristo concurred with Item 06-09 and the Presbyteries of Albany, Denver, Grand Canyon, Missouri River Valley, Wabash Valley and de Cristo concurred with former Item 06-07 including Item 06-07 Recommendation 2. The Presbytery of Central Florida provided the following rationale for Item 06-09 [edited].

How the Book of Order's Currently Mandated Disciplinary Process in G-2.0509 and D-10.0401d Is Inconsistent with the Preamble of the Rules of Discipline

Recently adopted language in the *Book of Order* may seem to be merely a compassionate response to former ministers of the Word and Sacrament who renounced jurisdiction while being accused in a disciplinary case, who may have done so because of pressing family or medical reasons, for example. The current process allows former teaching elders to rejoin the church, but does not require them to face accusations until sometime in the future when they themselves choose to come forward, in self-accusation, to resume the disciplinary process. However, requiring the disciplinary process to resume only when the accused chooses to come forward in self-accusation is inconsistent with

five out of seven of the purposes of discipline stated in the Preamble of the Rules of Discipline (D-1.0101), because such a process (1) tramples on victim's rights, (2) is not likely to remove causes of suspicion, and (3) is not likely to bring perpetrators of offenses to repentance, especially if many years pass between when the accused renounces jurisdiction and when the accused chooses to resume the disciplinary process.

The Preamble of the Rules of Discipline state that three of the purposes of discipline are:

- “to achieve justice and compassion for all participants involved;”
- “to uphold the dignity of those who have been harmed by disciplinary offenses;”
- “to secure the just, speedy, and economical determination of proceedings.” (D-1.0101)

When an accusation is made, victims have a right to see a fair and impartial investigation go forward with all deliberate speed (up to and including a trial, if necessary), so that, whatever the outcome of the disciplinary process², victims feel free to put memories of painful events in the past, and move on with their lives. However, under the current process in the *Book of Order*, victims (and perhaps their families or friends) may feel compelled to have to constantly prepare to testify about abusive events, just in case they ever receive notice from a new investigating committee that the accused wants to resume the disciplinary process, which could be at any time in the future of the accused's choosing. It is cruel, inhumane, and anything but “speedy,” to expect victims to keep hanging on to evidence of abuse and to relive painful memories for months, years, or even decades in the future, on the perhaps slim chance that the accused might rejoin the church and choose to resubmit to the disciplinary process. In the words of a theological seminary advisory delegate to the 2016 General Assembly (2016), the process in G-2.0509 and D-10.0401d as now written “punishes victims.”

Advice from the Advisory Committee on the Constitution

The Advisory Committee on the Constitution advised the 223rd General Assembly (2018) to answer Item 06-09 with action on Item 06-07 providing the following advice [edited]. The Advisory Committee on the Constitution advised the 223rd General Assembly (2018) to answer Item 06-07 recommendation #1 with disapproval and refer recommendation #2 to the Rules of Discipline Task Force. They provided the following advice [edited].

Part 2

Recommendation 2 of Item 06-07 would amend D-10.0401d to add words to make clear the section applies only to a former minister of the Word and Sacrament who renounced jurisdiction of the PC(US.) while a disciplinary proceeding was proceeding against him or her as the accused. There is a task force working on a revision to the Rules of Discipline. The amendment to D-10.0401d (Recommendation 2 of Item 06-7) should be referred to it.

Advice from the Advocacy Committee for Women's Concerns

The Advocacy Committee for Women's Concerns advised the 223rd General Assembly (2018) to approve Item 06-09 for its greater clarity of language in amending the *Book of Order*, G-2.0509 and approve Item 06-07 Recommendation 2.

While ACWC supports the above changes, they are inadequate. Unless victims have the right to a fair and impartial investigation with all deliberate speed, they will never feel free to put memories of painful events in the past and move on with their lives. Under the current ruling, however, former teaching elders are allowed to rejoin the church but are not required to face accusations and resume the disciplinary process until a time in the future of their own choosing. Thus, a predator can deliberately wait until after key witnesses have moved on with their lives, perhaps even died, or *the original* evidence is no longer available.

Advice from the Office of the General Assembly

The Office of the General Assembly advised the 223rd General Assembly (2018) advises that all items, including Items 06-09 and 06-07, amending the Rules of Discipline, be referred to the Rules of Discipline Task Force, which is

currently revising the Rules of Discipline as a whole and will report with suggested changes to the 224th General Assembly (2020).

The Assembly Committee on Church Polity and Ordered Ministry (06) voted to approve the proposed amendment as amended 54/3. The 223rd General Assembly (2018) approved the committee's recommendation with amendment 466/7. (See *Minutes*, 2018, Part I, pp. 71–72, 588.)

For the full report of Item 06-09, go to <https://www.pc-biz.org/#/committee/3000008/business>

18-C. Officers

On Amending G-3.0104 (Item 06-16)

The 223rd General Assembly (2018) directed the Stated Clerk to send the following proposed amendment to the presbyteries for their affirmative or negative votes:

Shall G-3.0104 of the Form of Government be amended by adding the following statement as the last paragraph to read as follows? [Text to be added is shown as italic.]

“No congregation, session, presbytery, synod, or national office of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), nor any individual acting on behalf of or in an official capacity for the above institutions, shall publicly endorse or oppose, or otherwise encourage or discourage others to vote for or against an individual running for public office.”

Rationale

The proposed amendment originates from the Presbytery of Western North Carolina as Item 06-16. The Presbytery of de Cristo concurred. The Presbytery of Western North Carolina provided the following rationale for Item 06-16 [edited].

Since 1954, the Johnson Amendment has been a provision in the United States tax code prohibiting charitable organizations, including churches, from endorsing or opposing political candidates. This allows for charitable organizations to qualify for tax exemption and qualifies donations to these organizations as tax-exempt. In recent years, there has been discussion regarding the repeal of this amendment; those in favor of repeal claim that the amendment infringes on the first amendment rights of clergy and other leaders of religious and charitable organizations while those in favor of maintaining the statute fear that a repeal would lead to religious and charitable organizations becoming safe-havens for tax-exempt and un-reported political contributions.

While full repeal of the Johnson Amendment has not yet come to fruition, action has been taken to loosen the interpretation and implementation of the statute when churches and secular charitable organizations are found to be in violation.

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) has long supported the notion of the separation of church and state. We can see this throughout our Foundations of Presbyterian Polity. Section F-3.0101a and b affirms that “God alone is Lord of the conscience,” and that “We do not even wish to see any religious constitution aided by the civil power, further than may be necessary for protection and security, and at the same time, be equal and common to all others.”

While it is clear that the principles of this overture are present in abundance throughout the *Book of Order* and *Book of Confessions*, there is no explicit guidance offered to governing bodies or to those in leadership positions regarding endorsing or opposing candidates running for political office. This amendment to the *Book of Order* precludes such activity while still allowing for churches and leaders to actively engage with secular issues that touch on the life of faith, to work towards bringing God’s reign of justice and peace ever closer to reality.

Advice from the Advisory Committee on the Constitution

The Advisory Committee on the Constitution advised the 223rd General Assembly (2018) disapprove Item 06-16 providing the following advice [edited].

The Presbytery of Western North Carolina summarizes the history of the “Johnson Amendment,” and anticipates change to that statute. Because the Johnson Amendment has not yet been revoked or altered, it is premature for the assembly to address anticipated statutory change. The overture would reverse long-standing foundational principles of our denomination and have long-reaching effects on the church,

Individual Discernment and Diversity of Religious Belief

Presbyterians begin with a firm and fundamental belief in the private discernment of religious belief. Section F-3.0101 sets forth and affirms the historic principle that “God alone is Lord of the conscience” and that “in all matters that

respect religion” “we consider the rights of private judgment ... as universal and inalienable.” Holy Scriptures are the only rule of faith, and church power in matters of religious belief is limited as explained in F-3.0107. This first historic principle of church order (F-3.0101) was affirmed and explained in the policy statement, “God Alone Is Lord of the Conscience.”¹ The principle that God alone is Lord of the conscience both reflects and underlies many other foundational² and confessional³ statements in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

“Religious bodies and people of faith hold to a wide variety of convictions, ideas, and values that make important contributions to the shape and strength of public life. That life has been shaped by individuals and groups that have sought to create new forms, sustain traditional ones, challenge existing ideologies and reform or resist unjust institutions. Participation is thus viewed by the government sometimes as a blessing and at other times as a threat” (*God Alone*, p. 48; see also F-1.404). Because the individual is the bearer of conscience, it does not matter whether others of the same faith make the same conscientious claim. *God Alone*, p. 19. “Religious tolerance and pluralism are our political and societal norm. We do not perfectly achieve that norm and intolerance has not been eliminated....” (*God Alone*, p. 7).

Formation of Conscience in Community

While Presbyterians emphasize individual belief, we also recognize the importance of community and our shared expression of belief. Discourse and expressions of diversity within the church are important to formation of religious conscience. As Presbyterians, we recognize that “The formation of conscience occurs in community, but its exercise is very often finally an individual matter” (*God Alone*, p. 19). It is a fundamental principle for our church and our country that “The individual’s right to believe cannot be divorced from the right to exercise that belief in the company and community of others. For nearly every human being, the right to practice religion only as a solitary individual is virtually no right at all” (*God Alone*, p. 12). “The exercise of individual and corporate conscience must be affirmed as an integral aspect of religious liberty.”⁴

Separation of Church and State

The freedom to express religious views in public is as important as the freedom to determine religious beliefs for oneself. For Reformed Christians, “faith demands engagement in the secular order and involvement in the political realm” (*God Alone*, p. 48). The so-called “separation between church and state” is “particularly misleading when used to advocate the separation of religion from politics or from any other dimension of the public order. The First Amendment has never meant separation of religion from community or separation of the church from public life. On their face, the religion clauses [of the U.S. Constitution] constitute an absolute prohibition on government participation in religious life; there is no hint that that barrier was even thought to isolate religion from the life of the republic” (*God Alone*, pp. 47–48).

Responsibility for Involvement in Public Life

The freedom and responsibility to express religious and moral views in public is an important part of our denominational principles and history. The Gospel demands that we share our faith and that we seek to be a community of faith witnessing to God’s good news and Christ’s teachings to the world in words and deeds. According to the Reformed tradition and standards of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), “it is a limitation and denial of faith not to seek its expression in both a personal and public manner, in such ways as will not only influence, but transform the public order and involvement in the political realm” (*God Alone*, p. 48). This principle reflects our foundational statements (F-1.0301, F-1.0304, F-1.0404), other parts of the *Book of Order* (e.g., W-5.0304), and our long-standing and important history of social witness to world.

Endorsement or Opposition to Political Candidates

“For these reasons, limitations upon the freedom of religious bodies to participate in public life are illegitimate and unconstitutional. The church is bound to reject any regulation limiting church advocacy or particular legislation or endorsement of candidates, or establishing religious qualifications for office holders” (*God Alone*, p. 50). Over the centuries, Presbyterians have stood up and spoken out against those who would silence the church and the faithful.

Internal Revenue Code provisions that limit tax-exempt religious organization from devoting “substantial” activity to attempts to influence legislation or participate or intervene in political campaigns on behalf of any candidate for public office, as well as recent public debate, heighten concerns about religious discourse about public life. There is a difference between discussion of issues and candidates, on one hand, and intervention in campaigns on behalf of specific candidates on the other” (*God Alone*, p. 50).

The 200th General Assembly (1988) specifically affirmed that: “We recognize that speaking out on issues will sometimes constitute implicit support or opposition to particular candidates or parties, where policy and platform differences are clearly drawn. Since such differences are the vital core of the political process, church participation should not be curtailed on that account; but we believe that it is generally unwise and imprudent for the church explicitly to support or oppose specific candidates, except in unusual circumstances” (*God Alone*, p. 50).

Each council should be mindful of these foundational principles and historical practice. “It is easy to step from advocating our vision to seeking to enforce it, from protecting religious liberty to requiring ‘right’ belief and action. The church must advocate its positions on public issues, but it should not seek to exercise political authority in its own right” (*God Alone*, p. 50).

Endnotes

1. *God Alone Is Lord of the Conscience* is a policy statement of Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) adopted by the 200th General Assembly (1988), and affirmed or cited by numerous subsequent General Assemblies and entities of the church. Hereafter “God Alone.”
2. Section F-1.0301 states the “Calling of the Church” is to be a community of faith, a community of hope, a community of love, and a community of witness. “The Great Ends of the Church” (F-1.0304) include “the promotion of social righteousness; and the exhibition of the Kingdom of Heaven to the world.” Section F-1.0404 explains the “Church seeks a new openness to God’s mission in the world.”
3. See, e.g., the Theological Declaration of Barmen and the Confession of 1967, which can be found in the *Book of Confessions*.
4. “The church is always obliged to respect claims of conscience lest it frustrate efforts to obey the will of God. We need not agree with the specific dictates of another’s conscience to respect and support the right to exercise that conscience. Paul told Christians that they were freed from Jewish dietary laws, but if the conscience of another is offended by eating certain foods, ‘for conscience sake—I mean his conscience, not yours—do not eat it’ (1 Corinthians 10:28–29). The obligation to respect the exercise of conscience is not only a dynamic of life within the church; it is both a demand and a dilemma of the First Amendment’s protection of religious freedom” (*God Alone*, p. 18).

Advice from the Advisory Committee for Social Witness Policy

The Advisory Committee for Social Witness Policy advised the 223rd General Assembly (2018) to approve 06-16 with suggested amendment providing the following advice [edited].

The Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy (ACSWP) advises approval as amended below: [Text to be deleted is shown with a strike-through and with brackets; text to be added or inserted is shown with an underline and with brackets.]

“~~No~~ [Except in cases of extreme danger to the common good, and even then with cautions against extreme partisanship, no] congregation, session, presbytery, synod, or national office of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), nor any individual acting on behalf of or in an official capacity for the above institutions, shall publicly endorse or oppose, or otherwise encourage or discourage others to vote for or against an individual running for public office.”

The substantial and generally fine General Assembly social witness policy on church/state relations, *God Alone Is Lord of the Conscience* (1988; <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/wp-content/uploads/1-god-alone-is-lord-1988.pdf>) refuses to limit prophetic religious speech, but also recognizes the wisdom of our predominant practice. “The church is bound to reject any regulation limiting church advocacy or particular legislation or endorsement of candidates, or establishing religious qualifications for office holders.” But then, “There is a difference between discussion of issues and candidates, on one hand, and intervention in campaigns on behalf of specific candidates on the other.” And further, “... we believe that it is generally unwise and imprudent for the church explicitly to support or oppose specific candidates, except in unusual circumstances” (all three quotes from page 50).

The General Assembly spoke to the issues involved in the Tax Justice policy of 2014, reaffirming the principles behind the current 501.c.3 category, and further addressing the abuse of the 501.c.4 category of “social welfare institutions” for political purposes and personal enrichment:

Rules governing tax-exempt “social welfare organizations” (501(c)(4)s) should exclude or strictly limit the eligibility of donations for partisan political purposes, parties and candidates, and the individual and corporate donors to or through such organizations should be made public due to their influence on the political process (http://www.pcusa.org/site_media/media/uploads/acswp/pdf/acswp_tax_justice_42.pdf, p. 4).

The 222nd General Assembly (2016) addressed this matter even more directly, responding to Supreme Court decisions in the Citizens United and Voting Rights Act cases, which intensified the role of money in politics:

[The Assembly:] Endorses the continuing prohibition of partisan political endorsements by religious organizations or their leadership and other measures to respect both religious liberty and the separation of church and state. The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) strongly supports the freedom of religious organizations to speak on matters of policy, but personal endorsements and partisan ties may present the appearance of or opportunity for collusion, special treatment, and the violation of nonprofit tax status. <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/wp-content/uploads/Election-Protection-and-Integrity-in-Campaign-Finance-2016-ACSWP.pdf>, pp. 2–3)

The Assembly Committee on Church Polity and Ordered Ministry (06) voted to approve the proposed amendment as amended 31/24. The 223rd General Assembly (2018) approved the committee’s recommendation with amendment 370/99. (See *Minutes*, 2018, Part I, pp. 73, 611.)

For the full report of Item 06-16, go to <https://www.pc-biz.org/#/committee/3000008/business>

18-D. Membership of Presbytery

On Amending G-3.0306 (Item 06-05)

The 223rd General Assembly (2018) directed the Stated Clerk to send the following proposed amendment to the presbyteries for their affirmative or negative votes:

Shall the fourth paragraph of G-3.0306 of the Form of Government be amended by adding the following statement as follows? [Text to be added is shown as italic.]

“Every minister of the Word and Sacrament shall ordinarily be a member of the presbytery where his or her work is situated or of the presbytery where she or he resides. The presbytery may grant a minister permission to engage in work validated ministry that is outside its geographic bounds or which is not under its jurisdiction, but no presbytery shall permit a minister to engage in work that is within the geographic bounds of another presbytery and which is properly within the responsibility of another presbytery without consent of that presbytery. Such permission shall be obtained from both presbyteries and shall be reviewed and renewed annually.”

Rationale

This proposed amendment originates from the Presbytery of Tropical Florida as Item 06-11. The Presbyteries of Central Florida, Greater Atlanta, Huntington, Wabash Valley and de Cristo concurred. The Presbytery of Tropical Florida provided the following rationale [edited].

The current Form of Government lacks clarity with regard to the seeking of and granting of permission for a minister member of a presbytery to labor beyond the geographic boundaries of the presbytery of membership. This overture provides clarity to the seeking of permission to labor within the geographic bounds of a presbytery beyond that of the minister of Word and Sacrament’s membership.

As “the presbytery is the council serving as a corporate expression of the church within a certain district” (G-3.0301), the presbytery needs to have knowledge of and oversight for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) witness within its geographic district. Without the Form of Government making it clear that permission must be granted by the presbytery for all validated ministry taking place within its bounds, the particular corporate witness of a presbytery within a certain district may lack unity of strategy for mission under the Word. The addition of this paragraph to the Form of Government enhances the presbytery’s capacity for unity in its corporate witness as strategy for mission under the Word.

Advice from the Advisory Committee on the Constitution

The Advisory Committee on the Constitution advised the 223rd General Assembly (2018) to approve Item 06-05 as amended providing the following advice [edited]:

Item 06-05 seeks to return to the *Book of Order* the mechanism for seeking permission to labor beyond the geographic bounds of membership of the minister of the Word and Sacrament. The ... text ... is based on the language that was in the 2009–2011 edition of the *Book of Order*.

The Form of Government (G-3.0306) establishes that each presbytery determines the ministers who are its members and validates the ministries in which they are to be engaged, following the criteria of G-2.0503a(1)–(5) and the policy developed by the presbytery for validating the ministries of its members.

The Assembly Committee on Church Polity and Ordered Ministry (06) voted to approve the proposed amendment as amended 52/1. The 223rd General Assembly (2018) approved the committee’s recommendation with amendment 442/13. (See *Minutes*, 2018, Part I, pp. 71, 571.)

For the full report of Item 06-05, go to <https://www.pc-biz.org/#/committee/3000008/business>.

18-E. Pastor, Counselor, and Advisor to Its Pastors and Congregations

On Amending G-3.0307 (Item 06-02)

The 223rd General Assembly (2018) directed the Stated Clerk to send the following proposed amendment to the presbyteries for their affirmative or negative votes:

Shall G-3.0307 of the Form of Government be amended as follows: [Text to be deleted is shown with a strike-through; text to be added or inserted is shown as italic.]

“G-3.0307 Pastor, Counselor, and Advisor to Its ~~Pastors~~ *Ministers of the Word and Sacrament and Congregations*

“Presbyteries shall be open at all times to communication regarding the life and ministry of their congregations.

“Each presbytery shall develop and maintain mechanisms and processes to serve as pastor and counselor to its ~~pastors, both ministers of the Word and Sacrament, and ruling elders commissioned to pastoral service (also called commissioned pastors (also known as commissioned ruling elders)), as well as the~~ *and certified Christian educators of the presbytery; to facilitate the relations between the presbytery and its congregations, ~~pastors ministers of the Word and Sacrament, commissioned pastors,~~ and certified Christian educators; and to settle difficulties on behalf of the presbytery where possible and expedient.”*

Rationale

The proposed amendment originates from the Presbytery of Santa Fe as Item 06-02. The Presbyteries of Grand Canyon, Muskingum Valley, Sierra Blanca, Southeastern Illinois, and de Cristo, concurred with Item 06-02. The Presbytery of Santa Fe provided the following rationale for Item 06-002 [edited].

The Presbytery of Santa Fe was one of the concurring presbyteries on the 2016 overture that became Amendment 16-C, Recommendations C.1 through C.8, ratified by a majority of the presbyteries. We are mindful of the valid criticism of Recommendation 16-C.6 (G-3.0307) raised by the Advisory Committee on the Constitution, as well as other concerns about repetitive wording. We believe this can be easily remedied by our proposed amendment.

Advice from the Advisory Committee on the Constitution

The Advisory Committee on the Constitution advised the 223rd General Assembly (2018) to approve Item 06-02 as amended providing the following advice [edited]:

The rationale for Item 06-02 focuses on the issue of repetitive wording in this section, but there is a more important issue that is corrected by this amendment.

The 222nd General Assembly (2016) approved Item 06-08 on amending the *Book of Order* to clarify titles to Ordered Ministry. Item 06-08 (2016) was a large amendment with seven recommendations, most which dealt with switching the default term for the ordered ministry of “teaching elder” to “minister of the Word and Sacrament.” In the process of approval, the 222nd General Assembly (2016) approved an amendment to G-3.0307 (sixth recommendation) to strike out the term “teaching elder” and insert not “minister of the Word and Sacrament,” but “pastor.”

The Advisory Committee on the Constitution called the attention of the assembly to an unintended consequence of this amendment, that by inserting the word “pastor” into the action defining who had access to the committee on ministry or its equivalent, the amendment was cutting off all ministers of the Word and Sacrament not serving as installed or temporary pastors from access to this committee or entity. Item 06-08 (2016) was approved and referred to the presbyteries without addressing this concern.

Item 06-02, if approved, will restore constitutional access to the committee on ministry or its equivalent to all minister members of the presbytery. It also deals with the issue of repetitive wording in this section with language that is clear and concise.

The Assembly Committee on Church Polity and Ordered Ministry (06) voted to approve the proposed amendment as amended 52/0. The 223rd General Assembly (2018) approved the committee's recommendation with amendment 464/3. (See *Minutes*, 2018, Part I, pp. 70, 565–66.)

For the full report of Item 06-02, go to <https://www.pc-biz.org/#/committee/3000008/business>

18-F. Welcoming to the Table

On Amending W-4.0202 (Item 14-03)

The 223rd General Assembly (2018) directed the Stated Clerk to send the following proposed amendment to the presbyteries for their affirmative or negative votes:

Shall W-4.0202 be amended as follows: [Text to be deleted is shown with a strike-through; text to be added or inserted is shown as italic.]

“W-4.0202 Welcoming to the Table

“In cases where baptized children who have not yet begun to participate in the Lord’s Supper express a desire to receive the Sacrament, ~~the session should provide an occasion to welcome them~~ *they shall be welcomed to the table in public worship. Their introduction to the Lord’s Supper should include and the session should ensure they receive ongoing instruction or formation in the meaning and mystery of the Sacraments.*”

Rationale

This proposed amendment originates from the Presbytery of Grace as Item 14-03. The Presbyteries of de Cristo, Grand Canyon, Huntingdon, Newton, and Palo Duro concurred. The Presbytery of Grace provided the following rationale [edited].

The current language “provide an occasion to welcome them” could be interpreted as the need to provide a “first communion” service for baptized children. If taken this way, the language could develop a mindset that baptized children must wait until a certain age or complete certain educational requirements before belonging at the table. This mindset would violate our understanding that the Sacraments of Baptism and the Lord’s Supper are linked (W-3.0408 “Welcome”) and that “all who come to the table are to be offered the bread and cup regardless of their age or understanding,” (W-3.0409 “The Theology of the Lord’s Supper”).

Striking this phrase simplifies the wording while maintaining the intent—to welcome the baptized and provide them with ongoing instruction. The responsibility for instruction in baptismal identity and worship education and participation is addressed in W-4.0201 “Nurturing the Baptized,” W-2.0303 “Ruling Elders,” and W-2.0305 “Shared Responsibility and Accountability.” The issue of welcome to those not baptized is addressed in W-3.0409 “The Theology of the Lord’s Supper.”

Advice from the Advisory Committee on the Constitution

The Advisory Committee on the Constitution advised the 223rd General Assembly (2018) to approve Item 14-03 providing the following advice [edited]:

The Advisory Committee on the Constitution advises the 223rd General Assembly (2018) to approve Item 14-03.

This amendment seeks to clarify that when children receive the Lord’s Supper for the first time, the Directory for Worship is not suggesting a service such as “first communion.”

The Advisory Committee on the Constitution finds that the overture has identified a possible contradiction between W-3.0409 and the current language of W-4.0202 and has provided an amendment to W-4.0202 that would resolve that contradiction. The Advisory Committee on the Constitution advises that the proposed language is clear and consistent with the stated intent of the overture.

The Assembly Committee on Theological & Church Growth Issues and Institutions (14) voted to approve the proposed amendment with comment 50/1. The 223rd General Assembly (2018) approved the committee’s recommendation with a voice vote. (See *Minutes*, 2018, Part I, pp. 17, 1205.)

For the full report of Item 14-03, go to <https://www.pc-biz.org/#/committee/3000016/business>.

18-G. Disciplinary Offense

On Amending D-2.0203b (Item 06-04)

The 223rd General Assembly (2018) directed the Stated Clerk to send the following proposed amendment to the presbyteries for their affirmative or negative votes:

Shall D-2.0203b of the Form of Government be amended as follows? [Text to be deleted is shown with strike-through; text to be added or inserted is shown as italic.]

“b. An offense is any act or omission by a member or a person in an ordered ministry of the church that is contrary to the Scriptures or the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). *Sexual abuse as defined in Section D-10.0401c shall be considered contrary to the Scriptures or Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), and therefore an offense for purposes of these rules.*”

Rationale

This proposed amendment originates from the Presbytery of North Alabama as Item 06-04. The Presbyteries of Albany, Boise, Grand Canyon, Huntington, and de Cristo concurred. The Presbytery of North Alabama provided the following rationale [edited].

A recent ruling by a synod permanent judicial commission effectively indicated that actions in violation of a council’s sexual misconduct policy are not under the jurisdiction of the Rules of Discipline unless those actions are explicitly specified as contrary to the Scriptures or the Constitution. The Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) requires “all councils shall adopt and implement a sexual misconduct policy and a child and youth protection policy” (*Book of Order*, G-3.0106). In order to meet this requirement, actions or omissions in violation of these policies must have the capacity to be addressed through our disciplinary process; otherwise the policies are unenforceable. Furthermore, it should be implicit that actions that violate constitutionally required policies are by their very nature contrary to the Scriptures or the Constitution. Decisions in prior disciplinary cases have supported this concept.

The members and congregations of the Presbytery of North Alabama wish to stringently affirm that sexual misconduct is sin. We believe past failure to confront this behavior has led to injustice and discord within the church, and scrutiny and litigation from without. We humbly ask the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to take an unequivocal stand for justice by equating this sin as an implicit violation of scriptural norms and constitutional ordination vows.

Advice from the Advisory Committee on the Constitution

The Advisory Committee on the Constitution advised the 223rd General Assembly (2018) to disapprove Item 06-04 with comment. They provided the following advice [edited].

The Advisory Committee on the Constitution advises the 223rd General Assembly (2018) to disapprove Item 06-04 with the following comment.

“While sexual misconduct is not condoned by Scriptures or the Constitution of the PC(USA), adding this language to the *Book of Order* is unnecessary. All councils and judicial commissions are admonished to consider sexual misconduct as contrary to the Scriptures and the Constitution of the PC(USA).”

Scriptures and the Constitution do not condone sexual misconduct or the abuse and endangerment of children and youth. Many acts involve impermissible sexual overtures, force, and misconduct. The assembly is reminded that the Constitution is not an enumeration of specific permitted or prohibited conduct, but rather a guide for all councils in administering their mission. Each council should be mindful that any act of sexual misconduct or child abuse is in violation of the Constitution. By singling out a particular violation of a particular policy, an inference might be made that violations of other policies are not contrary to the Scriptures and the Constitution.

Councils have the authority to establish and enforce their policies. Not all violations of a particular policy may be found to be contrary to Scripture or the Constitution. Violation of a council's sexual misconduct and/or child and youth protection policy may be procedural and may not rise to the level of a constitutional offense. The Rules of Discipline set forth the process for determining proof of an alleged offense, including sexual misconduct.

The assembly may consider admonishing all councils and judicial commissions that sexual misconduct is contrary to the Scriptures and the Constitution and that all councils are required to adopt and implement a sexual misconduct policy and/or child/youth protection policy (G-3.0106).

Alternatively, the assembly may consider referral of this item to the Task Force on the Rules of Discipline for report to the 224th General Assembly (2020).

Advice from the Advocacy Committee on Women's Concerns

The Advocacy Committee on Women's Concerns advised the 223rd General Assembly (2018) approve Item 06-04 providing the following advice [edited].

The Advocacy Committee for Women's Concerns (ACWC) agrees that any act or omission prohibited by the council of authority's duly adopted sexual misconduct policy and/or child and youth protection policy should be considered contrary to the Scriptures or Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and therefore an offense for purposes of these rules. ACWC agrees with this overture that past failure to confront sexual misconduct has led to injustice and discord within the church, and scrutiny and litigation from without.

Because all sexual abuse is, at the core, an abuse of power, certain populations are more vulnerable to such abuse. For instance, children and youth, developmentally disabled adults, and immigrant night shift workers are often the targets of sexual misconduct. Gender inequities rooted in theological misunderstandings based in patriarchy leave women within the church particularly vulnerable to sexual misconduct, not only from other clergy, but also to sexual harassment from male members of their congregations. It is essential that the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) take an unequivocal stand for justice by equating sexual misconduct to be an implicit violation of scriptural norms and constitutional ordination vows.

The Assembly Committee on Church Polity and Ordered Ministry (06) voted to approve the proposed amendment as amended 53/0. The 223rd General Assembly (2018) approved the committee's recommendation with amendment 416/13. (See *Minutes*, 2018, Part I, pp. 70, 570.)

For the full report of Item 06-04, go to <https://www.pc-biz.org/#/committee/3000008/business>.

18-H. Time Limit

On Amending D-10.0401 (Item 06-24)

The 223rd General Assembly (2018) directed the Stated Clerk to send the following proposed amendment to the presbyteries for their affirmative or negative votes:

18-H.1.

Shall D-10.0401b of the Form of Government be amended as follows: [Text to be deleted is shown with strike-through; text to be added or inserted is shown as italic.]

“b. For instances of sexual abuse of another person, the five-year time limit shall not apply. *There is also no time limit for charging that a person who knew or reasonably should have known of the reasonable risk of sexual abuse of another as defined in D-10.0401c(1) or (2) failed to take reasonable steps to minimize the risk. Both charges may be brought regardless of the date on which an offense is alleged to have occurred.*”

18-H.2.

Shall D-10.0401c(1) of the Form of Government be amended as follows: [Text to be deleted is shown with strike-through; text to be added or inserted is shown as italic.]

“(1) any person under the age of eighteen years or anyone ~~over the age of eighteen years~~ without the ~~mental~~ capacity to consent; or”

Rationale

This proposed amendment originates from the Advisory Committee on the Constitution comment on a referral from the 222nd (2016) General Assembly to the Office of the General Assembly. The original item before the 222nd (2016) General Assembly originated from the Advocacy Committee for Women’s Concerns.

Advice from the Advisory Committee on the Constitution

The Advisory Committee on the Constitution advised the 223rd General Assembly (2018) to refer Item 06-24 to the Rules of Discipline Task Force or approve as amended. They provided the following advice [edited].

[b.] The ACWC proposed and ACC recommended languages both impose a level of responsibility on persons that is not currently part of the Rules of Discipline. The ACC recommendation imposes a negligence standard for failure to respond to situations involving a reasonable risk of sexual misconduct, including the failure to report appropriately.

[c.1)] This language recognizes that minor persons cannot consent. The second clause clarifies that sexual abuse includes persons who lack of the capacity to consent for any reason whatsoever.

The Assembly Committee on Church Polity and Ordered Ministry (06) voted to approve the proposed amendment as amended 47/1. The 223rd General Assembly (2018) approved the committee’s recommendation with amendment 455/16. (See *Minutes*, 2018, Part I, pp. 73–74, 631–32.)

For the full report of Item 06-24, go to <https://www.pc-biz.org/#/committee/3000008/business>

LIST OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

18-A. Election of Ruling Elders and Deacons—	1
On Amending G-2.0401	1
18-B. Renunciation of Jurisdiction	3
18-B.1. On Amending G-2.0509	3
18-B.2. On Amending D-10.0401d	5
18-C. Officers - On Amending G-3.0104	8
18-D. Membership of Presbytery - On Amending G-3.0306	12
18-E. Pastor, Counselor, and Advisor—	
On Amending G-3.0307	13
18-F. Welcoming to the Table—On Amending W-4.0202	15
18-G. Disciplinary Offense - On Amending D-2.0203b	16
18-H. Time Limit	18
18-H.1. On Amending D-10.0401b	18
18-H.2. On Amending D-10.0401c(1)	18

**Commission on Ministry Report; February 21, 2019
Submitted by Laurie Palmer, Chair**

Western Regional Commission

Chair, Michael Clark; Clerk, Ken Gruebel

For Presbytery action:

Approve the merger of FPC Port Richey with Trinity PC of Seven Springs.

Action Taken by the Western Region:

Approved the appointment of the Rev. Philip Hollins as moderator for the First Presbyterian Church of Port Richey until the merger is finalized between that church and Trinity Presbyterian Church of Seven Springs.

Approved the Rev. Bill Wildhack as a part-time stated supply (75%) for the First Presbyterian Church, Safety Harbor from January 1, 2019 – December 31, 2019 with the following annualized terms of call: Salary: \$867.50, Housing: \$25,000, Deferred Income: \$7,920, Continuing Education: \$1,000, Auto/Professional: \$1,500, Social Security: \$1,978.86. two (2) weeks Study Leave and four (4) weeks Vacation, for a total cost to the church of \$34,466.36.

Approved the Ordination Commission for Kitti Ginn on January 6, 2019 at 3:00 p.m. at St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, Dunedin, Florida, with the following members: the Rev. Loli Reiter, Rev. John Fullerton, Rev. Joy Laughridge, Rev. Philip Hollins, Rev. Zac McGowen, Ruling Elder Carol White, Ruling Elder Casey Lucchesi, Ruling Elder Nancy Gross and Ruling Elder George Meese. Others: Rev. Waleska Acevedo (Tampa General Hospital, Chaplain/Navy Reserves) and Father Roy Allison (St. James Episcopal Church)

Approved the Rev. Sam Picard to moderate the Session of Northwest Presbyterian Church in St. Petersburg,

Received the Rev. Ronald Fritts HR into the Presbytery of Tampa Bay from Central Florida Presbytery.

Received the Rev. Dennis R. Bennett HR into the Presbytery of Tampa Bay from the Presbytery of Tropical Florida and approved him for the Pulpit Supply List.

Received the Rev. Ruth Elswood as a Member-at-Large into the Presbytery of Tampa Bay from St Augustine Presbytery. Approved employment of Rev Ruth Elswood as part-time Parish Associate for a Designated Term of one year starting on January 10, 2019, and the terms of the Form F-1 as submitted and requested by the Rev. Dawn Conti and approved by session of First Presbyterian Church of St. Petersburg on December 9, 2018.

Terms are part-time (50% or 20 hours weekly), annual salary \$24,600, housing \$1,800, social security allowance \$2019.60, total annual cost to church of \$28,419.60. Vacation 4 weeks, study leave 2 weeks.

Appointed Rev. Lissa Bradford to serve as moderator for The Church on the Bayou, Tarpon Springs, effective immediately.

Approved the transfer of the Rev. John Harland HR to the Presbytery of St. Augustine.

Approved the Ministry Information Form for Hope Presbyterian Church, Clearwater.

Approved the Terms of Call (F-1 form) between the Rev. W. Joseph Reggin, full-time Stated Supply, and St. Mark's Presbyterian Church, Hudson, beginning January 1, 2019 with the following annualized terms of call: Salary: \$35,000, Housing: \$20,000, Board of Pensions medical, pension, disability and optional program: \$20,793, Continuing Education: \$1,200, Auto/Professional: \$5000, Social Security: \$4,208. two (2) weeks study leave and four (4) weeks vacation, for a total cost to the church of \$86,201.

Removed Barry Dowdy as commissioned pastor for St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, New Port Richey.

Central Region

2018 Chair, Nicole Abdnour; 2019 Chairs, James Friesen and Susan Hill; Clerk, Robert Shaw

For Presbytery Action

Approve the merger of Bel Mar Presbyterian Church and Palma Ceia Presbyterian Church, Tampa.

Actions taken by the Central Region

Dismissed Rev. David Bonnema to the Presbytery of Western North Carolina

Approved the Ordination Commission for Will Wellman Sunday, December 23rd at 4:00 pm at Palma Ceia Presbyterian Church. Commission Members: Rev. Loli Reiter (Moderator), Rev. Bill Hull (H.R.), Rev. Sally Campbell-Evans (validated), Rev. Ramiro Ros (St. Johns), RE Mark Wellman (FPC Lakeland), and RE Kem Toole (PCPC) Approved by voice vote.

Examined Rev. Joshua Murray, Cumberland Presbyterian Church, for approval for TPB's pulpit supply list conditioned upon a clear background check and satisfactory executive reference checks.

Terms of Call (F-1 forms) approved for 2019:

Rev. Susan Hill at the Presbyterian Church of Bloomingdale, Brandon

Rev. Mark Salman at Saint Andrew Presbyterian Church, Sun City Center

Rev. Denise Lay at the First Presbyterian Church, Zephyrhills

Rev. Kenneth Shick at Village Presbyterian Church, Tampa

East Region

Kris Marone, Chair

Approved Mike Loudon for the Pulpit supply list.

Approved release of Barbara Booth-Jarmon to Monmouth Presbytery.

PLAN OF MERGER
BETWEEN
TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SEVEN SPRINGS, INC.
AND
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF PORT RICHEY, INC.

The following Plan of Merger is submitted in compliance with Section 617.1101, Florida Statutes between TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SEVEN SPRINGS, INC., a Florida Non-Profit Corporation, and FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF PORT RICHEY, INC., a Florida Non-Profit Corporation.

ARTICLE I
Constituent Corporations

The name of each constituent Corporation is TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SEVEN SPRINGS, INC., a Florida Non-Profit Corporation (hereinafter referred to as "TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN"), and FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF PORT RICHEY, INC., a Florida Non-Profit Corporation, (hereinafter referred to as "FIRST PRESBYTERIAN.")

ARTICLE II
Merger

Under F.S. 617.1101-1107, FIRST PRESBYTERIAN shall be merged with TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN.

ARTICLE III
Surviving Corporation

TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN shall be the surviving Corporation of the merger.

ARTICLE IV
Articles of Incorporation

The articles of incorporation of TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN, in effect immediately before the merger shall not be changed by the merger and shall continue to be its articles of incorporation subsequent to the merger.

ARTICLE V
Directors, Trustees and Officers

The directors, trustees and officers of TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN, immediately before the merger shall continue to be the directors, trustees and officers immediately following the merger.

ARTICLE VI
Members

The members of TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN and FIRST PRESBYTERIAN immediately before the merger shall all be members of TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN, immediately following the merger, and without further action, shall possess all rights and obligations granted to members of TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN, by its charter and by-laws.

ARTICLE VII
Assets and Liabilities

On the effective date of the merger, the separate existence of FIRST PRESBYTERIAN shall cease and TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN, without further notice, shall possess all of its rights and privileges immediately preceding the merger. All assets of any nature of FIRST PRESBYTERIAN including, but not limited to, real property, personal property, chattel, fixtures, intellectual property, tangible and intangible in nature, contractual rights and the like, without further action, shall be fully vested in TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN, immediately following the merger.

Following the merger, TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN shall receive, hold and honor any and all testimonial, trust, designated or foundational gifts for the purposes for which they were donated to FIRST PRESBYTERIAN.

Following the merger, TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN shall be responsible for all liabilities and obligations of FIRST PRESBYTERIAN. Any claim existing or action or proceeding pending against FIRST PRESBYTERIAN may be continued as if the merger did not occur or TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN may be substituted for FIRST PRESBYTERIAN in any such proceeding. Neither the rights of creditors of nor any liens on the property of FIRST PRESBYTERIAN shall be impaired by the merger.

ARTICLE VIII
Approval by Members

This Plan of Merger, hereby approved by the Board of Directors and Trustees of each constituent Corporation, shall be submitted, along with Articles of Merger, for the approval by the voting membership of each constituent Corporation in the manner provided by the applicable laws of the State of Florida at such time as to which the Board of Directors and Trustees of the constituent Corporation may agree.

ARTICLE IX
Effective Date

The merger shall be effective when the Articles of Merger are filed with the State of Florida Department of State, or at such other time specified in the Articles of Merger.

ARTICLE X
Abandonment

Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in this plan, this Plan of Merger may be terminated and abandoned by the Board of Directors and Trustees of TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN, or the Board of Directors and Trustees of FIRST PRESBYTERIAN at any time before the filing of Articles of Merger.

Executed on behalf of the parties by their officers, pursuant to the authorization of their respective Board of Directors and Trustees on the date first below written.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, this Plan of Merger has been approved and executed by the undersigned officers on _____, 2019.

**TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SEVEN SPRINGS, INC.
A Florida Non-Profit Corporation**

By: _____
Casey Lucchesi, Chairman and President

By: _____
Anna Stubbendick, Secretary

STATE OF FLORIDA
COUNTY OF PASCO

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Casey Lucchesi and Anna Stubbendick, on behalf of the Corporation, acknowledged the foregoing instrument before me this ____ day of _____, 2019. They are personally known to me, or has produced _____ as identification and did take an oath. They executed the foregoing Plan of Merger as voted upon by the Board of Directors and Trustees and they signed this document freely and of their own free will without any duress whatsoever.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my Official Seal in the State and County aforesaid this _____ day of _____, 2019.

Signature of Notary

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF PORT RICHEY, INC.
A Florida Non-Profit Corporation**

By: _____
Julie Kovar, Chairman and President

By: _____
Beverly Webster, Secretary

STATE OF FLORIDA
COUNTY OF PASCO

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Julie Kovar and Beverly Webster, on behalf of the Corporation, acknowledged the foregoing instrument before me this ____ day of _____, 2019. They are personally known to me, or has produced _____ as identification and did take an oath. They executed the foregoing Plan of Merger as voted upon by the Board of Directors and Trustees and they signed this document freely and of their own free will without any duress whatsoever.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my Official Seal in the State and County aforesaid this _____ day of _____, 2019.

Signature of Notary

ARTICLES OF MERGER

Believing it is the will of our Heavenly Father and His son Jesus Christ as demonstrated through the working of the Holy Spirit, the following Articles of Merger are submitted in accordance with the Florida Not For Profit Corporation Act, pursuant to section 617.1105, Florida Statutes. The undersigned, being the presidents and secretaries of TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SEVEN SPRINGS, INC., a Florida non-profit corporation, and FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF PORT RICHEY, INC., a Florida non-profit corporation, and hereby execute these Articles of Merger, which shall be filed in the office of the Florida Department of State.

ARTICLE I

The Name and Jurisdiction of the Surviving Corporation:

TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SEVEN SPRINGS, INC.
 a Florida non-profit corporation
 (Hereinafter referred to as "TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN")
 Document No. N12689

ARTICLE II

The Name and Jurisdiction of the Merging Corporation:

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF PORT RICHEY, INC.
 a Florida non-profit corporation
 (Hereinafter referred to as "FIRST PRESBYTERIAN")
 Document No. 714987

ARTICLE III

Plan of Merger

A copy of the Plan of Merger is attached as Exhibit "A".

ARTICLE IV
Adoption of Merger by Surviving Corporation

The Plan of Merger was adopted by TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN, a Florida non-profit corporation at a meeting of its members on _____, 2019. Proper notice of the business meeting was given and a quorum was present. The number of votes cast in favor of the merger was sufficient for approval. The vote for the Plan of Merger was _____ in favor and _____ opposed.

ARTICLE V
Adoption of Merger by Merging Corporation

The Plan of Merger was adopted by FIRST PRESBYTERIAN, a Florida non-profit corporation at a meeting of its members on _____, 2019. Proper notice of the business meeting was given and a quorum was present. The number of votes cast in favor of the merger was sufficient for approval. The vote for the Plan of Merger was _____ in favor and _____ opposed.

ARTICLE VI
Effective Date

The merger shall be effective on the date the Articles of Merger are filed with the Florida Department of State.

EXECUTED on behalf of their respective membership by their officers pursuant to the special business meetings called for the purpose of merger.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned have executed these Articles of Merger on _____, 2019.

**TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SEVEN SPRINGS, INC.
A Florida Non-Profit Corporation**

By: _____
Casey Lucchesi, Chairman and President

By: _____
Anna Stubbendick, Secretary

STATE OF FLORIDA
COUNTY OF PASCO

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Casey Lucchesi and Anna Stubbendick, on behalf of the Corporation, acknowledged the foregoing instrument before me this ____ day of _____, 2019. They are personally known to me, or has produced _____ as identification and did take an oath. They executed the foregoing Plan of Merger as voted upon by the Board of Directors and Trustees and they signed this document freely and of their own free will without any duress whatsoever.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my Official Seal in the State and County aforesaid this ____ day of _____, 2019.

Signature of Notary

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF PORT RICHEY, INC.
A Florida Non-Profit Corporation**

By: _____
Julie Kovar, Chairman and President

By: _____
Beverly Webster, Secretary

STATE OF FLORIDA
COUNTY OF PASCO

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Julie Kovar and Beverly Webster, on behalf of the Corporation, acknowledged the foregoing instrument before me this ____ day of _____, 2019. They are personally known to me, or has produced _____ as identification and did take an oath. They executed the foregoing Plan of Merger as voted upon by the Board of Directors and Trustees and they signed this document freely and of their own free will without any duress whatsoever.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my Official Seal in the State and County aforesaid this _____ day of _____, 2019.

Signature of Notary

EXHIBIT "A"
PLAN OF MERGER

RESOLUTION

**APPROVING PLAN OF MERGER BETWEEN
TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SEVEN SPRINGS, INC.,
AND
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF PORT RICHEY, INC.**

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors/Board of Trustees of the FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF PORT RICHEY, INC., a Florida Non-Profit Corporation (hereinafter referred to as "FIRST PRESBYTERIAN") desires to merge with TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SEVEN SPRINGS, INC., a Florida Non-Profit Corporation (hereinafter referred to "TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN".)

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors/Board of Trustees of FIRST PRESBYTERIAN believes it is then will of our Heavenly Father, his son, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit to merge the two churches, and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors/Board of Trustees of FIRST PRESBYTERIAN has been in contact with the Presbytery of Tampa Bay who is in agreement with the merger, and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors/Board of Trustees has reviewed and approved the attached Plan of Merger, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, the attached Plan of Merger is hereby adopted and approved by the official Board of Directors/Board of Trustees of the church and hereby directed that it be submitted to a vote by the Presbytery. Upon receipt of approval by the Presbytery, a meeting of the membership will be called and at such meeting the church membership will vote on the Plan of Merger. If approved by the membership of both churches, the Articles of Merger will be filed with the State of Florida.

Dated: _____, 2019

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF PORT RICHEY, INC.
A Florida Non-Profit Corporation**

By: _____
Julie Kovar, Chairman and President

By: _____
Beverly Webster, Secretary

STATE OF FLORIDA
COUNTY OF PASCO

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Julie Kovar and Beverly Webster, on behalf of the Corporation, acknowledged the foregoing instrument before me this ____ day of _____, 2019. They are personally known to me, or has produced _____ as identification and did take an oath. They executed the foregoing Plan of Merger as voted upon by the Board of Directors and Trustees and they signed this document freely and of their own free will without any duress whatsoever.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my Official Seal in the State and County aforesaid this ____ day of _____, 2019.

Signature of Notary

RESOLUTION

**APPROVING PLAN OF MERGER BETWEEN
TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SEVEN SPRINGS, INC.,
AND
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF PORT RICHEY, INC.**

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors/Board of Trustees of the TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SEVEN SPRINGS, INC., a Florida Non-Profit Corporation (hereinafter referred to as "TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN") desires to merge with FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF PORT RICHEY, INC., a Florida Non-Profit Corporation (hereinafter referred to "FIRST PRESBYTERIAN".)

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors/Board of Trustees of TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN believes it is then will of our Heavenly Father, his son, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit to merge the two churches, and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors/Board of Trustees of TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN has been in contact with the Presbytery of Tampa Bay who is in agreement with the merger, and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors/Board of Trustees has reviewed and approved the attached Plan of Merger, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, the attached Plan of Merger is hereby adopted and approved by the official Board of Directors/Board of Trustees of the church and hereby directed that it be submitted to a vote by the Presbytery. Upon receipt of approval by the Presbytery, a meeting of the membership will be called and at such meeting the church membership will vote on the Plan of Merger. If approved by the membership of both churches, the Articles of Merger will be filed with the State of Florida.

Dated: _____, 2019

**TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SEVEN SPRINGS, INC.
A Florida Non-Profit Corporation**

By: _____
Casey Lucchesi, Chairman and President

By: _____
Anna Stubbendick, Secretary

STATE OF FLORIDA
COUNTY OF PASCO

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Casey Lucchesi and Anna Stubbendick, on behalf of the Corporation, acknowledged the foregoing instrument before me this ____ day of _____, 2019. They are personally known to me, or has produced _____ as identification and did take an oath. They executed the foregoing Plan of Merger as voted upon by the Board of Directors and Trustees and they signed this document freely and of their own free will without any duress whatsoever.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my Official Seal in the State and County aforesaid this _____ day of _____, 2019.

Signature of Notary

**TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SEVEN SPRINGS
CALLED CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
October 28, 2018**

The meeting was opened with prayer by Pastor Philip Hollins, at 11:05 am.

There was a quorum of the congregation present.

Philip presented the purposed motion from the Session to the congregation of the merger with the First Presbyterian Church of Port Richey with our Church. The motion which was approved by Session on October 23, 2018

for the Congregations approval. The motion is as follows;

Motion to request that the Presbytery of Tampa Bay approve a merger of First Presbyterian Church of Port Richey, Fl. And Trinity Presbyterian Church of Seven Springs, both being members of the Presbytery of Tampa Bay. The merger will include the following:

- a. The orderly transfer of the membership of First Presbyterian Church of Port Richey to the membership rolls of Trinity Presbyterian Church of Seven Springs.
- b. The lawful transfer of funds, property, and assets to Trinity Presbyterian Church of Seven Springs.
- c. The legal merging of the Florida corporation named First Presbyterian Church of Port Richey, Inc., with the Florida corporation named Trinity Presbyterian Church of Seven Springs, Inc. It is recognized that this merger shall be following Florida Statutes.

Motion passed by vote of the congregation.

The meeting was closed with prayer by Pastor Philip Hollins, at 11:30 am.

Casey Lucchesi
Clerk of Session

the Rev. Philip Hollins
Moderator

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF PORT RICHEY**Called Session Minutes****January 20, 2019****CALL TO ORDER & OPENING PRAYER**

Moderator: Rev. Phillip Hollins called the meeting to order with prayer at 9:35 am in Founders Hall.

ROLL CALL

Present: Rev. Phillip Hollins, Elders: Allan Love, Julie Kovar, Beverly Webster, Lyz Alamo, Casey Luchesse, Anna Stubendick and Notary Public.

Rev, Hollins discussed the Merger Documents drawn up by attorney, and following a short discussion of their content, called for a vote. The Merger Documents were unanimously approved and the Motion to accept and sign them was made by Allan Love, and seconded by Julie Kovar. Documents were signed by President Julie Kovar and Secretary, Beverly Webster, and notarized.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:50am.

Beverly Webster,

Clerk of Session,

First Presbyterian Church of Port Richey

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF PORT RICHEY
CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
October 28, 2018**

CALL TO ORDER AND OPENING PRAYER

Following the call to order at 11:00 a.m., the meeting began with a prayer by Rev. Dr. Guild.

QUORUM

It was declared that there was a quorum present.

PURPOSE OF THE MEETING

To request that the Presbytery of Tampa Bay approve a merger of First Presbyterian Church of Port Richey, FL. and Trinity Presbyterian Church of Seven Springs, both being members of the Presbytery of Tampa Bay. The merger will include the following:

- a. The orderly transfer of the membership of First Presbyterian Church of Port Richey to the membership rolls of Trinity Presbyterian Church of Seven Springs.
- b. The lawful transfer of funds, property, and assets to Trinity Presbyterian Church of Seven Springs.
- c. The legal merging of the Florida corporation named First Presbyterian Church of Port Richey, Inc., with the Florida corporation named Trinity Presbyterian Church of Seven Springs, Inc. It is recognized that this merger shall be in compliance with Florida Statutes.

After discussion, there was a call to vote.

The vote was unanimous to approve the above request for a merger.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made, seconded and approved to adjourn the meeting at 12:00 p.m.; Rev Dr. Guild led us in The Lord's Prayer.

Beverly Webster, Clerk of Session

Minutes of a Meeting of the Called Session on January 13, 2019

The January called meeting of the Session/Trustees of both Trinity Presbyterian Church of Seven Springs, a member congregation of the Presbytery of Tampa Bay of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and Trinity Presbyterian Church of Seven Springs, Inc., a not-for-profit corporation of the state of Florida was held in Founders' Hall January 13 2019. The Reverend Philip Hollins called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM, a quorum was present.

Members Present: Linda Allred, Jeff Bandy, Barbara Denicola, the Rev. Philip Hollins Moderator, David Jason, Casey Lucchesi, Edy McGuirk, Barbara Ticich, Walt Palmer.

Opening Prayer and Devotion by the Reverend Philip Hollins

New Business:

Approval of Articles of Merger. Plan of Merger. Resolution of Approving Plan of Merger between TPCOSS Inc. and FPCOPR Inc.

MSP: To approve the Articles of Merger. Plan of Merger. Resolution of Approving Plan of Merger between Trinity Presbyterian Church of Seven Springs Inc. and The First Presbyterian Church of Port Richey Inc.

Motion from Mission Ministry Team: That four ushers will be at the back of the Church at end of service to collect a love offering for the missionaries

MSP: That four ushers will be at the back of the Church at end of service to collect a love offering for the missionaries

Casey Lucchesi
Clerk of Session

Rev. Philip Hollins
Moderator

**Letter of Intent for a Plan to Unite
Bel-Mar Presbyterian Church and
Palma Ceia Presbyterian Church**

Bel-Mar Presbyterian Church, Tampa, Florida and Palma Ceia Presbyterian Church, Tampa, Florida plan to unite to revitalize Presbyterian ministry in the Bel-Mar facility in accord with the description and commitments below.

Introduction

In the past Bel-Mar was a vital church with over 350 members. Bel-Mar carried on many missions and ministries. It is now struggling like many other churches, but its members want vibrant Presbyterian mission and ministry to return to the Bel-Mar facility. At the same time members want their faithful congregation and worship service to continue. Palma Ceia Presbyterian Church is thriving. It reaches many people in the South Tampa area and has remarkable programs that serve its community and beyond. Palma Ceia has commitment to the gospel, dedicated disciples and capable leadership. Palma Ceia is prepared to partner with Bel-Mar to carry on ministry in the South Tampa area.

Purpose of this Plan to Unite

The primary purpose of the plan to unite is to combine the resources of the two churches under the leadership of Palma Ceia Presbyterian Church to carry out God's mission and presence in South Tampa while providing for the needs of Bel-Mar's members. It is the intended purpose of this plan to combine the two churches communities into one church.

How may this revitalization be accomplished?

Palma Ceia will continue its efforts to get to know the needs and faith aspirations of people who live in the Tampa area that is surrounding Palma Ceia Presbyterian Church and Bel-Mar Presbyterian Church. This will be the continuance and further expansion of a relationship and partnerships that have existed between Palma Ceia Presbyterian Church and Bel-Mar Presbyterian Church for decades and especially over the last several years. This relationship has included the implementation of a Saturday night service at Bel-Mar, combined music events, and other worship and fellowship events. It is the desire of both churches to better identify and respond to the needs of the many unchurched families and children in the South Tampa area. It is the specific desire of both worshipping communities to maintain two active vibrant worshipping communities and campuses in promoting the Kingdom of God and to address the needs of youth. Immediate goals include the development of a community garden in relationship to the extent possible with the neighboring Madison Middle School and increasing outreach to the neighboring Presbyterian Villas. It is the intent of both churches that in this process the history and identity of Bel-Mar will be maintained to the extent possible. The new worshipping community may be known as the Bel-Mar Campus of Palma Ceia Presbyterian Church.

The current Bel-Mar congregation

Palma Ceia will provide a worship service every Sunday for the current Bel-Mar members for as long as the service is viable, although the service time may change. The current Saturday service at Bel-Mar may or may not continue and may continue in a modified format. Palma Ceia will

provide pastoral care for the current Bel-Mar members. The membership of current Bel-Mar members will transfer to Palma Ceia when the plan is implemented. All Bel-Mar assets and liabilities will be conveyed to Palma Ceia and the current church corporation of Bel-Mar may be dissolved.

Responsibilities of Palma Ceia Presbyterian Church

Staff, programs, facility maintenance, administration, budgeting, record keeping, accounting and similar functions for the current Bel-Mar campus may be the responsibility of Palma Ceia. The Bel-Mar campus will be provided with financial reports upon request, and Palma Ceia will establish sound financial policies and controls. During the period of transition, there will be two designated Commissioners from the current Bel-Mar congregation to the Palma Ceia Session. After uniting the churches the representation of the Bel-Mar worshipping community will be a factor to be utilized by the Officer Nominating Committee of the Palma Ceia Session in nominating future Elders.

Use of the Bel-Mar Presbyterian Assets

Since Bel-Mar members may become members of Palma Ceia they are basically transferring the assets to themselves. All of the assets and money that is transferred may be devoted to the work of the combined campuses consistent with the intentions set forth herein. The assets will be used to maintain and develop the Bel-Mar and Palma Ceia campuses and ministries. The Bel-Mar member and session records will be maintained in accord with Presbyterian policy and may be transferred to a denominational archive.

The Bel-Mar Presbyterian Name

The current facility may become known as the Bel-Mar campus of Palma Ceia Presbyterian Church. Conscious efforts will be made to maintain the Bel-Mar name and identity after the uniting of the two worshipping communities.

This Letter of Intent is hereby endorsed by:

Bel-Mar Presbyterian Church Date _____

By _____ Its _____

Palma Ceia Presbyterian Church Date _____

By _____ Its _____

Presbytery of Tampa Bay, Tampa, Florida Date _____

By _____ Its _____

ARTICLES OF MERGER

Believing it is the will of our Heavenly Father and His Son, Jesus Christ, as demonstrated through the working of the Holy Spirit, the following Articles of Merger are submitted in accordance with the Florida Not for Profit Corporation Act, pursuant to Section 617.1105, Florida Statutes. The undersigned, being the Presidents and Secretaries of Palma Ceia Presbyterian Church, Inc. a Florida not for profit corporation, and Bel Mar Presbyterian Church, Inc., a Florida not for profit corporation, hereby execute these Articles of Merger, which shall be filed in the Office of the Florida Department of State.

ARTICLE I

THE NAME AND JURISDICTION OF THE SURVIVING CORPORATION

Palma Ceia Presbyterian Church, Inc,
A Florida not for profit corporation (“Palma Ceia”),
Located in Tampa, Hillsborough County, Florida
Document Number _____

ARTICLE II

THE NAME AND JURISDICTION OF THE MERGING CORPORATION

Bel Mar Presbyterian Church, Inc.
A Florida not for profit corporation (“Bel Mar”)
Located in Tampa, Hillsborough County, Florida
Document Number _____

ARTICLE III

PLAN OF MERGER

A copy of the plan of Merger is attached as Exhibit “A”.

ARTICLE IV

ADOPTION OF MERGER BY SURVIVING CORPORATION

The Plan of Merger was adopted by PALMA CEIA, a Florida not for profit corporation, at a meeting of its members held on _____, 2019. Proper notice of the business meeting was given and a quorum was present. The

number of votes cast in favor of the merger was sufficient for approval. The vote for the Plan of Merger was ___ in favor and ___ opposed.

**ARTICLE V
ADOPTION OF MERGER BY MERGING CORPORATION**

The Plan of Merger was adopted by BEL MAR, a Florida not for profit corporation, at a meeting of its members held on _____, 2019. Proper notice of the business meeting was given and a quorum was present. The number of votes cast in favor of the merger was sufficient for approval. The vote for the Plan of Merger was ___ in favor and ___ opposed.

**ARTICLE VI
EFFECTIVE DATE**

The merger shall be effective on the date the Articles of Merger are filed with the Florida Department of State.

EXECUTED on behalf of the respective membership by their officers pursuant to the business meeting called for the purpose of merger.

IN WITNES WHEREOF, the undersigned have executed these Articles of Merger on _____, 2019.

PALMA CEIA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, INC.
A Florida not for profit corporation,

BY: _____
President

BY: _____
Secretary

STATE OF FLORIDA
COUNTY OF HILLSBOROUGH

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

_____ and _____, on behalf of the Corporation, acknowledged the foregoing instrument before me this ___ day of _____, 2019. They are personally known to me ___ or have produced _____ as identification and did take an oath. They executed the

foregoing Articles of Merger as adopted and voted upon by their church and they signed this document freely and of their own free will without any duress whatsoever.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my Official Seal in the State and County aforesaid this ___ day of _____, 2019.

My Commission Expires:

Signature of Notary

BEL MAR PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, INC.
A Florida not for profit corporation,

BY: _____
President

BY: _____
Secretary

STATE OF FLORIDA
COUNTY OF HILLSBOROUGH

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

_____ and _____, on behalf of the Corporation, acknowledged the foregoing instrument before me this ___ day of _____, 2019. They are personally known to me ___ or have produced _____ as identification and did take an oath. They executed the foregoing Articles of Merger as adopted and voted upon by their church and they signed this document freely and of their own free will without any duress whatsoever.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my Official Seal in the State and County aforesaid this ___ day of _____, 2019.

My Commission Expires:

Signature of Notary

PLAN OF MERGER
Between
PALMA CEIA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, INC.
AND
BEL MAR PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, INC.

The following Plan of Merger is submitted in compliance with Section 617.1101, Florida Statutes, between PALMA CEIA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, INC., a Florida not for profit corporation, and BEL MAR PREBYTERIAN CHURCH, INC., a Florida nor for profit corporation.

ARTICLE I
CONSITUTENT CORPORATIONS

The name of each constituent Corporation is PALMA CEIA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, INC., a Florida not for profit corporation (“PALMA CEIA”, and BEL MAR PREBYTERIAN CHURCH, INC., a Florida nor for profit corporation (“BEL MAR”).

ARTICLE II
MERGER

Pursuant to Section 617.1101-1107, Florida Statutes, BEL MAR shall be *merged* into PALMA CEIA (the “Merger”).

ARTICLE III
SURVIVING CORPORATION

PALMA CEIA shall be the *surviving* Corporation of the Merger.

Stated Meeting of
Session and Board of trustees
For Bel-Mar Presbyterian Church
November 4, 2018

IN attendance: Rev. Mike Peacock, moderator. Catherine Moseley clerk of session. Session members: Lee Moseley, Art Griffith, Ellen Craig, and Lynn Dyer.

Called to order at 12:13 PM with a prayer.

Quorum was declared.

Minutes of previous meetings. October 7, 2018 minutes read. Ellen motioned to approve and Art seconded. Minutes approved.

Pastor's Report:

A. Rev. Peacock reported on meeting with Palma Ciega's mission on ministry concerning the merger. The majority were in favor. It now needs to go to be voted on with Palma Ciega's and Bel-Mar's congregation.

Ellen motioned to schedule a congregational meeting on December 2, 2018. Art seconded motion carried.

B. \$560 was received Nov. 3 from music program that evening. Monies were then given to represent for voices for children.

C. No Thanksgiving eve services to be held at Belmar there will be services in the afternoon at Palma Ciega.

D. Need to consider time for Christmas Eve services.

Finance Art went over and answered any questions on the copy of this month's bank statement.

Next meeting December 2, 2018

Meeting adjourned at 12:38 with the mezbeth.

Catherine Moseley

Clerk of Session

**Bel-Mar Presbyterian Church
Congregational Meeting
December 2,2018**

Meeting opened with prayer by Rev. Peacock at 12:00pa.

Rev. Peacock declared a quart.

Business of meeting merger with Palma Ciea Presbyterian Church.

Rev. Peacock explained what it met to Bel- Mar.

Motion from session made to merge with Palma Ciea. Motion seconded and carried unanimously.

Motion to adjourn by Lee Moseley, seconded.

Meeting adjourned.

Catherine Moseley

Clerk of session

January 20, 2019

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Palma Ceia Presbyterian Church
Sanctuary

The session called the meeting for the congregation to vote on the following motion from session:
Motion for a merger with Bel Mar Presbyterian Church and Palma Ceia Presbyterian Church.

Moderator DeBevoise began with instructions on rules of order and introduction of guests who are invited to speak on the motion; Marsha Rydberg, Chair of the Bel Mar/PC Commission; Ben Hill, President of the PCPC Board of Trustees and PCP Foundation; Patrice Hatley, Coach and Coordinator of the Presbytery of Tampa Bay.

The meeting was opened at 12:20PM with prayer. Clerk of Session will record the minutes. A quorum was noted by the Clerk.

Speakers Rydberg, Hill and Hatley were given 5 minutes each to speak to the motion.

The floor was opened for discussion. PCPC member Burk Clark asked for a substitute motion to be heard. His request was seconded and approved. The first motion was tabled.

The substitute motion reads:

I move to refer the motion to a committee to be formed as soon as possible and that the committee be given up to three months to provide a written report detailing the most viable plans of action for after-merge with estimated cost ramifications of each. The report of the committee shall be made available to the congregation immediately upon its completion, and at least one month prior to a meeting called for a vote on the motion of a merger with Bel Mar Presbyterian Church and Palma Ceia Presbyterian Church.

After discussion the vote was taken to make the substitute motion the main motion by written ballot. The motion failed with 4 abstentions, 131 against the motion, 106 for the motion, with total of 241 votes cast.

The original motion was repeated. Written ballots were cast and the motion passed with 4 abstentions, 111 for the motion, and 108 against the motion with total of 221 votes cast.

The meeting was closed with prayer at 2:15PM.

Beverly A. Mims, Clerk of Session

December 16, 2018

SESSION MEETING

Palma Ceia Presbyterian Church
Fellowship Hall

ATTENDANCE:

Staff: DeBevoise, Abdnour, Hubbell, Intern JD DeBevoise, Kelly, Wilcher.
PCPC Treasure McKeel, Clerk of Session Mims.

Guests: Pastor Mike Peacock, Marsha Rydberg, Nat Pieper, Burk Clark, David Pead, Jim Armstrong, President PCPC Board of Trustees and PCP Foundation Ben Hill.

Elders:

Class of 2018

Jeff Andrews*
Carrie Fowler
Sally Glisson
Derek Guida
Rick Hardesty
Bill Lewis
Larry Lansrud*
Deon McFayden
Erin McKinney
Kim Miller
Jennifer Pandolfi
Kem Toole

*absent

Class of 2019

Cindy Alander
Sylvia Campbell
Ray Charles
Susan Clark
Marvin Crabtree
Kurt Hine
Tina Maddux
Robert Mims
Jenifer Ownby
Gay Rivas
Teale Smith
Beth Sessums

Class of 2020

Trey Carswell
Paul Clark
Amy Fitzsimmons
Robin Flournoy
Wendell Gaertner
Leah Maurer*
Susan Peacock
Patricia Pead
Rob Stern
Diggs Vann
Earl Whitlock
David Winter

Moderator DeBevoise called the meeting to order at 12:35PM with prayer. It was moved, seconded, and approved to change the order of the agenda.

The first motion to be considered by session is to recommend to the congregation that Bel Mar PC merge with PCPC. If this motion passes, consideration will be given to a second motion that a congregational meeting will be called for noon on Sunday January 20, 2018 for a congregational vote on this merger.

Discussion/opinions/letters were shared from Chair Rydberg of Bel Mar/PCPC Merger Commission, PCPC Board of Trustees Ben Hill, the Finance Committee, Mr. Pieper from Presbyterian Homes & Housing Foundation, Elders Rob Stern, Bill Lewis, Sylvia Campbell, Ray Charles, Paul Clark and Larry Lansrud.

A motion to use a super majority vote vs majority vote on the 2 Bel Mar questions was made and seconded. The motion failed with 16 yes to 17 no. (A motion for a super majority vote requires a 2/3 majority to pass). The Moderator stated paper ballots will be used for voting.

The first motion is for session to recommend to the congregation a merger with Bel Mar PC and Palma Ceia PC. The motion to merge Bel Mar with PCPC passed with 20 votes yes to 13 no.

The motion to call a congregational meeting for January 20, 2019 after the 11AM worship service to ask the congregation to vote on the merger was made. A substitute motion was proposed by Elder Paul Clark and was seconded: That the session call a meeting of the congregation to vote on the recommendation to merge with Bel Mar and that this meeting be convened as soon as possible after session receives a specific financial report and operational plan from the Bel Mar/PCPC Commission. Motion failed with a 15 to 15 tie (not a simple majority).

The motion to call the congregational meeting on January 20, 2019 passed with 21 votes yes to 9 no.

page 2 December 16, 2018 minutes

Pastor Ken Hubbell requested session return to a single Connection Service at 9:00AM because the intended demographic is not being reached with the 11:00AM service so the Connection is being diluted across two services. The motion to hold a single 9:00 Connection Service is made, seconded, and passed.

The Personnel Committee is continuing to search for a PCPC Administrator and wants to hire a consultant to assist in looking for someone to fill this specialized position. The cost is within the search committee's budget. Session approves.

The minutes of the November stated session meeting were approved.

The meeting was closed with prayer at 2:20PM.

Beverly A. Mims, Clerk of Session

**Report of the Committee on Nominations and Representation
To the Presbytery of Tampa Bay
November 8, 2019**

The Committee on Nominations and Representation nominates the following person(s) for election to the position(s) indicated. As much as possible, the Committee worked hard to address the need for parity among the members of the Committees/Commissions of the Presbytery to reflect a balance of Elders and Clergy, in addition to reflecting the gifts and skills necessary for ministry, and to be mindful to address the diversity of the Presbytery. Also, it can be noted that the Committee on Nominations and Representation has given attention to representation for and from each region of the Presbytery. Nominations from the floor are in order, but require the prior agreement of the persons who are being nominated. Please note that certain terms apply and are noted: for example, 2021-1 means class of 2021 serving first term. Please also note the following abbreviation key:

Ordination status:

C for clergy who identify themselves as ordained as ministers of word and sacrament

E for those persons who are ordained as elders

Gender:

M for Male Identity; F for Female Identity

Other Categories:

W for people who identify as Caucasian

H for people who identify as Hispanic or Latin

B for people who identify as African American or Black

A for people who identify as Asian or with their country/language of heritage

COM

Richard Dobler , EMW-East Region, 2019 0

CPM

Mike McCormack , CMW Central Region, 2019-0

The committee is working to fill 4 vacancies

CPM 2 vacancies

CCV 2 vacancies

We are also beginning our work toward finding Commissioners for the 224 GA ,2020

We have invited some speakers from the Bills and Overtures Committee to give a synopsis of their experience at the 223 GA, 2018 at the February 21 Presbytery Meeting.

**Report of the Coordinating Team
To the Presbytery of Tampa Bay
February 21, 2019 Stated Meeting**

Motions for Presbytery

1. Approve Bill Wildhack as Acting Stated Clerk.
2. Approve the proposed new Presbytery staff position, titled Emerging Ministry Associate.
3. Approve the budget for 2019.

Actions Taken by the Committee

1. Approved minutes for the November 8th, 2018 Stated Meeting of Presbytery.
2. Approved the offering of the February 21st, 2019 Stated Meeting of Presbytery to go to "Ready for Life".
3. Approved the docket for the February 21st, 2018 Stated Meeting of Presbytery.
4. Approved Bill Wildhack working with Dave Baker for training in preparation to become the Acting Stated Clerk starting January 14 for 10 hours per week through the next Stated Meeting. If approved by the Presbytery, Bill will be the part-time (20 hours a week) Acting Stated Clerk following that meeting, until a new Stated Clerk is elected for a three year term as described in the Presbytery bylaws.
5. Approved purchasing a table for Beth-El's fundraiser event at the Columbia Restaurant in Ybor on February 28th.
6. After a review of staff salaries, the CT approved a 4% raise on salary for Patrice Hatley.
7. Approved engaging Internet Outreach Experts (IOE) for a flat fee of \$1000 a month for ongoing support, as directed by the Stated Clerk of the Presbytery for the work of the Stated Clerk, Presbytery website, web development, graphic design and general IT advice. Recognizing that IOE has agreed that the Presbytery is free to cancel or renegotiate this agreement at any time, we engage their services for a term of up to 4 months beginning March 1, 2019 with evaluation opportunities during that time.
8. Approved a request to give Dave Baker permission to use the software and other materials developed with the Presbytery website in order to complete the work and give it away to other Presbyteries and Stated Clerks.

Items for Information

1. Bill (as Acting Stated Clerk) and Dave (as a temporary clerk appointed by Bill as per our bylaws) will overlap for one week to complete the training. Dave's last day will be February 28th, and Bill's part time hours will begin on March 1st. Bill will be taking over the statedclerk@pbty.com email on February 22nd. Dave may be reached at pastordavidbaker@gmail.com once this happens.
2. One of the Co-Moderators of the 223rd General Assembly, Cindy Kohlmann, will be joining us next February! More details to come.

Position Description: Emerging Ministries Associate

Purpose

The Emerging Ministries Associate will connect Tampa Bay appropriate commissions, congregations and ministers with opportunities to demonstrate compassion and share the gospel with our neighbors. The Emerging Ministries Associate will not be an ongoing manager of particular presbytery programs. Rather, he or she will connect commissions, congregations and ministries with specific needs, interests and abilities to access resources and networks.

This position will work primarily with the Commission on Church Vitality on fulfilling its responsibilities for mission, evangelism, congregational renewal, new worshipping communities, and education, by;

- identifying potential new worshipping communities, and nurturing those developments using the framework of 1001 New Worshipping Communities;
- supporting the Vital Congregations initiative deployment throughout the Presbytery;
- supporting coordination of resettlement of refugees who are documented persons, fully vetted and approved for immigration into the United States of America, within the bounds of PTB;
- facilitating the development of a covenantal relationship between the Presbytery of Tampa Bay and Iglesia Presbiteriana-Reformada en Cuba;
- affirming Presbytery's relationship with the International Partnership Honduras Mission, extending PTB mission and ministry.

Relationships

The Emerging Ministries Associate will be accountable to the Presbytery through the Coach and Coordinator. He or she will:

- serve as Presbytery staff for the Commission on Church Vitality to discern opportunities within the scope of this position, and focused on CCV responsibilities;
- coordinate with the Presbytery Coordinating Team and the Coach Coordinator to adjust the scope of this position when the ministry of the Gospel imperatively demands it;
- serve on the Presbytery Coordinating Team ex officio with voice and no vote;
- develop meaningful inter-faith and ecumenical network connections in service to the furthering of the kingdom of God. This includes, but is not limited to, participation in the Florida Council of Churches, the Presbyterian Mission Agency office of Ecumenical Relations, PC(USA) 1001 New Worshipping Communities and PC(USA) Vital Congregations, and the Cuban Partners Network. These connections will be an essential position responsibility.

Resources

The presbytery will provide access to a computer system and phone. Participation in conferences deemed pertinent to the position will also be supported by the Presbytery, along with access to knowledge bases and resources relevant to the role.

Essential Skills

- Strong understanding and articulation of Reformed Theology. A Master's degree in Divinity or Social Work is preferred. Creating space for a range of theological understanding will be important in networking with others.
- Ability to develop interpersonal relationships cross-culturally and inter-culturally.
- Must be a member in good standing of the Presbyterian Church (USA).
- Have some knowledge and experience in faith based community organization.
- Exhibit tenacity, grace, and flexibility when faced with unanticipated or complex challenges.
- Create scenarios and contingency plans for options or alternative approaches.
- Self-differentiated person who can navigate ambiguous or unclear territory with grace and agility.
- Punctual, reliable, well organized, an effective communicator, flexible as the work load and location may vary from week to week.
- Proficient with word processing, program management, and use of web based tools.
- Bilingual in English and Spanish language preferred

Compensation and Call

This position will meet or exceed the Presbytery minimum compensation for a full-time call. Funding sources are from surplus PTB per capita and PC(USA) denominational grants. This position is expected to be for a 2 year term, and may be extended as determined by the presbytery. The position will be filled upon recommendation of the Coordinating Team of the Presbytery, a broadly representative body, which is also responsible to serve as the Presbytery of Tampa Bay's personnel committee.

Evaluation

Performance reviews will be conducted annually by the Coordinating Team, which also reviews annual compensation of all staff.

Approved by the Presbytery of Tampa Bay:
DD MM2019

Presbytery of Tampa Bay

Financial report summary for 2018

The Presbytery ended 2018 in a strong financial position. I have noted just a few highlights below.

1. Per capita giving ended the year with the Presbytery receiving 84.4% of the funds allocated to come to the Presbytery based on the membership levels at our individual churches at year end 2016. As a comparison, in 2016 we received only 68.7% of allotted funds. As these numbers grow, the ability of the Presbytery to provide education, support and other services to our region will only increase.
2. Mission giving to the Presbytery showed a slight increase overall. The increase however was in funds designated to specific areas (such as disaster assistance), while our undesignated giving for Presbytery mission work decreased by about \$16,000 from last year.
3. Although our undesignated giving fell short of budget, we were able to fully support Cedarkirk, Bethel, and FLPDAN at their budgeted amounts. We ended the year with a deficit balance in missions of \$17,642, but the surplus in mission giving from last year was adequate to fully cover this shortfall. The dollars were thus used as intended when gifted.
4. Expenses using per capita dollars were carefully monitored during the year and came in slightly under budget. Coupled with the per capita receipts coming in ahead of projections, the year ended with a surplus in per capita giving of \$37,827.

It is with great joy and appreciation that I provide this year end highlight report. Good financial reports are an obvious signal that our Presbytery continues to be blessed with churches and members who are aware of the great things that can be accomplished when we work together as a larger body following God's leadership.

Thank you again for all that you do to support our local Presbytery! On a personal note – I also greatly appreciate your continuing to allow me to serve as your Treasurer. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions you may have.

Terry Dennis

Presbytery of Tampa Bay					
Budget draft					
January to December 2019	Total Actual	Annual Budget	Total Actual	Budget	
Headings and Account	2017	2018	2018	2019	
MISSION INCOME					
Shared Mission					
7000 - Basic Shared Mission- PTB	\$121,140.53	\$145,000.00	\$105,307.20	\$105,000.00	
7005 - Basic Shared Mission-GA	\$20,145.66	\$250.00	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00	
7010 - Basic Shared Mission-Synod	\$2,290.00	\$4,000.00	\$1,290.00	\$1,500.00	
Total Shared Mission	\$143,576.19	\$149,250.00	\$126,597.20	\$126,500.00	
Designated Mission					
7105 - Designated Mission-GA	\$19,797.39	\$20,000.00	\$18,639.95	\$19,000.00	
7110 - Designated Mission Giving-SSA	\$5,367.82	\$1,000.00	\$959.31	\$1,000.00	
7120 - Beth-El Farmworker-3 Cents	\$11,504.86	\$13,000.00	\$11,187.05	\$11,000.00	
7121 - Beth-El Designated Giving	\$16,202.27	\$15,000.00	\$14,613.85	\$15,000.00	
7125 - Cedarkirk-Designated Giving	\$19,106.10	\$12,500.00	\$19,792.72	\$19,000.00	
7135 - Disaster Assist to GA	\$32,677.27	\$7,000.00	\$22,010.18	\$22,000.00	
7140 - Thornwell-Designated Giving	\$2,458.60	\$500.00	\$663.75	\$650.00	
Total Designated Mission	\$107,114.31	\$69,000.00	\$87,866.81	\$87,650.00	
Investment Income					
7300 - Interest on Investments 1/2	\$4,476.92	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
7310 - Earnings on Endowments 1/2	\$9,075.50	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Total Investment Income	\$13,552.42	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Special Offering Income PCUSA					
7350 - Christmas Joy, GA	\$17,633.33	\$25,000.00	\$28,932.68	\$26,000.00	
7360 - OGHS, GA	\$33,853.52	\$30,000.00	\$37,820.83	\$37,000.00	
7365 - Peace & Global Witness, GA	\$5,309.67	\$4,000.00	\$3,836.09	\$4,000.00	
7370 - Pentecost, GA	\$9,219.82	\$8,000.00	\$6,372.10	\$7,000.00	
Total Special Offering Income PCUSA	\$66,016.34	\$67,000.00	\$76,961.70	\$74,000.00	
Miscellaneous Income					
7461 - Prior Year Surplus	\$0.00	\$3,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Total Miscellaneous Income	\$0.00	\$3,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Total MISSION INCOME	\$330,259.26	\$288,250.00	\$291,425.71	\$288,150.00	

MISSION EXPENSE					
CCV-Comm Church Vitality & Reg					
8000 - ECDC/CCV Administrative Exp	\$0.00	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$200.00	
8001 - Regional COM East	\$3,100.00	\$10,000.00	\$2,800.00	\$0.00	
8002 - Regional COM Central	\$3,360.16	\$10,000.00	\$2,384.00	\$0.00	
8003 - Regional COM West	\$11,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$0.00	
8005 - Redevelopment Projects	\$0.00	\$10,000.00	\$69.90	\$0.00	
8006 - Conferences	\$847.14	\$800.00	\$513.70	\$800.00	
8041 - FLPDAN	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	
Total CCV-Comm Church Vitality & Reg	\$28,307.30	\$51,000.00	\$25,967.60	\$11,000.00	
Beth El Farmworkers Ministry					
8200 - Beth El- PTB Shared Mission	\$47,000.00	\$47,000.00	\$47,000.00	\$47,000.00	
8205 - Beth El 3 Cents Allocation	\$11,504.86	\$13,000.00	\$11,187.05	\$11,000.00	
8210 - Beth El Designated Giving	\$16,202.27	\$15,000.00	\$14,613.85	\$15,000.00	
Total Beth El Farmworkers Ministry	\$74,707.13	\$75,000.00	\$72,800.90	\$73,000.00	
Cedarkirk Camp					
8250 - Cedarkirk- PTB Shared Mission	\$47,000.00	\$47,000.00	\$47,000.00	\$47,000.00	
8255 - Cedarkirk Designated Giving	\$19,106.10	\$12,500.00	\$19,792.72	\$19,000.00	
Total Cedarkirk Camp	\$66,106.10	\$59,500.00	\$66,792.72	\$66,000.00	
Synod of South Atlantic					
8500 - Synod Basic Shared Mission	\$3,290.00	\$4,000.00	\$1,290.00	\$1,500.00	
8505 - Synod / MissionInsite	\$2,982.00	\$3,000.00	\$2,982.00	\$0.00	
8510 - Designated Mission	\$5,367.83	\$1,000.00	\$959.31	\$1,000.00	
8515 - Thornwell Home	\$2,458.60	\$500.00	\$663.75	\$650.00	
Total Synod of South Atlantic	\$14,098.43	\$8,500.00	\$5,895.06	\$3,150.00	
General Assembly PCUSA					
8555 - Basic Shard Mission	\$20,145.66	\$250.00	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00	
8560 - Designated Mission	\$118,491.06	\$94,000.00	\$117,611.84	\$115,000.00	
Total General Assembly PCUSA	\$138,636.72	\$94,250.00	\$137,611.84	\$135,000.00	
Presbytery of Tampa Bay					
8570 - Mission Surplus to Restricted	\$2,007.38	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Total Presbytery of Tampa Bay	\$2,007.38	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Total MISSION EXPENSE	\$323,863.06	\$288,250.00	\$309,068.12	\$288,150.00	
Net Total	\$6,396.20	\$0.00	-\$17,642.41	\$0.00	

Presbytery of Tampa Bay					
Analysis of Revenues & Expenses - Detail					
January to December 2018					
	Total Actual	Annual Budget	YTD Actual	Budget	
Headings and Account	Last Year	2018	2018	2019	
PER CAPITA INCOME					
7500 - Per Capita - Presbytery	\$336,635.44	\$274,456.00	\$300,914.95	\$270,525.00	84.4% = 2018 actual
7505 - Per Capita - General Assembly	\$64,306.66	\$75,000.00	\$66,288.52	\$70,000.00	
7510 - Per Capita -Synod of SA	\$16,303.20	\$24,232.00	\$14,833.15	\$21,760.00	
per capita surplus, prior year				\$28,420.27	
7520 - Interest on Investments 1/2	\$4,476.94	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
7525 - Investment Spending Policy	\$9,075.47	\$35,539.00	\$35,539.00	\$50,948.95	
Total PER CAPITA INCOME	\$430,797.71	\$409,227.00	\$417,575.62	\$441,654.22	
PER CAPITA EXPENSE					
Presbytery Meetings					
9005 - Presbytery Meetings	\$3,410.38	\$5,000.00	\$1,504.56	\$3,500.00	
Total Presbytery Meetings	\$3,410.38	\$5,000.00	\$1,504.56	\$3,500.00	
Administration and Office Exp					
9100 - Legal Counsel	\$0.00	\$3,000.00	\$22.98	\$3,000.00	
9105 - Audit Fees	\$11,700.00	\$12,000.00	\$11,995.00	\$12,000.00	
9108 - Insurance	-\$15,519.92	\$5,000.00	\$2,936.06	\$3,200.00	
9120 - IT Contracts & Costs	\$7,088.93	\$5,000.00	\$7,826.55	\$4,000.00	
9125 - Equipment Repair & Maintenance	\$5,463.60	\$3,700.00	\$3,898.80	\$3,000.00	
9133 - Operating Expenses	\$705.91	\$2,000.00	\$1,581.70	\$1,600.00	
9135 - Stationary & Supplies	\$3,584.54	\$3,500.00	\$6,275.68	\$3,500.00	
9150 - Phone/Internet	\$1,581.55	\$2,000.00	\$1,423.02	\$1,600.00	
9155 - Utilites	\$215.38	\$500.00	\$316.13	\$500.00	
9170 - Bookkeeper Contract	\$11,623.25	\$13,390.00	\$13,332.95	\$20,000.00	
9180 - Rent	\$9,000.00	\$9,000.00	\$9,000.00	\$9,000.00	
Total Administration and Office Exp	\$35,443.24	\$59,090.00	\$58,608.87	\$61,400.00	
Committee on Ministry					
9200 - COM Administration Expense	\$2,936.18	\$5,000.00	\$2,446.68	\$2,500.00	
Total Committee on Ministry	\$2,936.18	\$5,000.00	\$2,446.68	\$2,500.00	
Presbytery Council					
9220 - Council / Team Administration	\$752.96	\$3,850.00	\$2,996.13	\$4,500.00	
9225 - Permanent Judicial Commission	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	
9245 - Sexual Misconduct Response	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	
Total Presbytery Council	\$752.96	\$4,850.00	\$2,996.13	\$5,500.00	
Preparation for Ministry Comm.					
9275 - CPM Administration	\$1,769.17	\$2,337.00	\$434.68	\$2,500.00	
Total Preparation for Ministry Comm.	\$1,769.17	\$2,337.00	\$434.68	\$2,500.00	
Personnel Budget					
Coordinator-Coach					
9901 - Coach/Coord Salary	\$90,180.00	\$92,885.00	\$92,885.04	\$96,600.00	4%
9902 - Coach/Coord FICA	\$6,898.80	\$7,106.00	\$7,105.68	\$5,477.40	
9904 - Coach/Coor Auto & Prof	\$6,657.89	\$12,000.00	\$11,147.32	\$12,000.00	
9906 - Coach/Coord Cont Ed	\$1,720.32	\$2,000.00	\$2,043.70	\$2,000.00	
Total Coordinator-Coach	\$105,457.01	\$113,991.00	\$113,181.74	\$116,077.40	

Stated Clerk						
9925 - Stated Clerk Salary	\$40,000.08	\$41,200.00	\$41,200.08			
9926 - Stated Clerk SECA	\$4,657.68	\$4,760.00	\$4,912.08			
9927 - Stated Clerk Auto	\$3,100.08	\$2,000.00	\$1,999.92			
9930 - Stated Clerk, Clergy Housing	\$20,884.32	\$21,012.00	\$21,012.00			
9935 - Stated Clerk Pension & Med	\$21,952.60	\$23,018.00	\$23,758.08			
9940 - Stated Clerk-Continuing Education	\$0.00	\$2,200.00	\$800.84			
9945 - Stated Clerk Professional Expenses	\$2,606.70	\$1,100.00	\$594.00			
Total Stated Clerk	\$93,201.46	\$95,290.00	\$94,277.00	\$81,000.00		
Proposed new position						
Salary (9 months)				\$36,000.00		
Pension & Med				\$12,240.00		
Professional expense				\$4,000.00		
Total				\$52,240.00		
Support Staff						
9950 - Support Staff, Salaries	\$21,489.10	\$22,700.00	\$23,387.66	\$23,387.66		
9960 - Support Staff, FICA/Medicare	\$1,643.83	\$1,737.00	\$1,789.13	\$1,789.16		
Total Support Staff	\$23,132.93	\$24,437.00	\$25,176.79	\$25,176.82		
Total Personnel Budget	\$221,791.40	\$233,718.00	\$232,635.53	\$274,494.22		
Per Capita Forwarded						
9975 - Per Capita, G A	\$64,306.66	\$75,000.00	\$66,288.52	\$70,000.00		
9980 - Per Capita, Synod	\$26,303.25	\$24,232.00	\$14,833.15	\$21,760.00		
9985 - Presbytery Surplus to Restricted	\$67,688.28	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		
Total Per Capita Forwarded	\$158,298.19	\$99,232.00	\$81,121.67	\$91,760.00		
Total PER CAPITA EXPENSE	\$424,401.52	\$409,227.00	\$379,748.12	\$441,654.22		
Net Total	\$6,396.19	\$0.00	\$37,827.50	\$0.00		
		Investments:				
		6/30/2016		\$1,293,000.00		
		6/30/2017		\$2,749,342.00		
		6/30/2018		\$3,600,000.00		
				\$7,642,342.00		
		Average		\$2,547,447.33		
		2% spending		\$50,948.95		

**Stated Clerk and Director of Communications
Presbytery Report for
February 21, 2019 Meeting**

Motions:

1. That all requests for excused absences be granted for today's meeting. (consent)

For Information:

1. Annual Statistical Report
At last report, we were tied for 12th among the 170 presbyteries for highest percentage of reports completed. Thank your Clerk of Session for their faithfulness!
2. Minister IDs
To save postage, the Presbytery is trying something new with Minister ID cards this year. You'll be able to get your ID card with your name lanyard at this Presbytery meeting. If you're unable to be at this meeting, the card will be mailed to you later in the year. If you were expecting a card, but did not receive one, please let the Acting Stated Clerk know via email at statedclerk@pbty.com
3. Thanks Presbytery of Tampa Bay!
This is my farewell report, so I'll take the opportunity to thank all of you for being such a faithful and loving community. It's been an enjoyable 10 years in the Presbytery, and 3+ as your Stated Clerk. While I'll certainly miss everyone, my wife and I (and 2 kids and 1 cat) are excited to be moving closer to our families in Virginia in a few weeks. Blessings and peace to you all!

Nominating and Representation Committee's
Selection Procedure for General Assembly Commissioners and Young Adult Advisory Delegates

GA=General Assembly PTB=Presbytery of Tampa Bay
NRC=Nominating and Representation Committee

Throughout the process of selecting nominees, the NRC will adhere to its mandate to seek broad representation across the "rich diversity" of our Presbytery and the PC(USA) in terms of age, gender, racial and ethnic background as well as geographic distribution. The NRC is responsible for nominating Ruling Elders, Ministers of the Word and Young Adult Advisory Delegates in the numbers determined by the PC(USA). The NRC is also to nominate an equal number of alternate representatives in each category.

The number of representatives allowed is determined by the PC(USA). The number of representatives nominated may be limited by the number of applications received from qualified applicants.

The procedure for seeking and processing nominee applications may be described by using a timeline. This timeline was devised by working backwards from the last Presbytery meeting of the calendar year prior to the next GA. Dates in left column are relative to the November 7, 2019 Presbytery stated meeting.

October 17, 2019	-3 weeks	If application deadline was extended, NRC meets to finalize nominations to go before PTB
September 26, 2019	-6 weeks	NRC meets to either extend application deadline or finalize nominations to go before PTB
September 19, 2019	-7 weeks	Deadline to receive applications
July 25, 2019	-3 ½ months	Send reminders: via email, update social media and perhaps call some pastors to ask them to speak to their congregation or specific individuals
March 14, 2019	-7 ½ months (giving approximately 6 months to the deadline with a month to review applications and submit nominee slate for the PTB meeting agenda)	The NRC will publicize information regarding the opportunity to serve the PTB at the next GA. Publicity should be as wide as possible, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PTB's regular information email - Announced at PTB meetings and information in PTB meeting packets - Emails from the NRC to all Ministers and Clerks of Session with requests to raise the awareness of the opportunity to Sessions and Congregants. - Posts to social media platforms maintained by the PTB
February 13, 2019	-8 months	NRC approves changes to the application packet. Changes include information such as deadlines, GA location and dates as well as any address changes needed for submission. Material changes to the application process may need to come before the PTB. <i>NOTE: the application packet was approved in committee minutes submitted to a previous PTB meeting.</i>

**NOMINATION PROCEDURE FOR
COMMISSIONERS AND ALTERNATES TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY
AND YOUNG ADULT ADVISORY DELEGATES**

Teaching elder and ruling elder commissioners and alternates to meetings of the General Assembly (GA) shall be nominated to achieve the goal of full participation as outlined in paragraph F-1.0403 of the Book of Order.

The Stated Clerk shall maintain lists of teaching elders who have served as GA commissioners and congregations whose ruling elders have served as GA commissioners.

The Committee on Nominations and Representation shall nominate two (2) teaching elders and two (2) ruling elders as principal commissioners, and two (2) teaching elders and two (2) ruling elders as alternate commissioners through the application process. The Committee shall also nominate one Young Adult Advisory Delegate (YAAD) and one alternate. When making its nominations, it shall seek to identify those who will best serve the needs of the GA and the Presbytery of Tampa Bay, taking into consideration the applications received and eligibility. The Committee will give priority to ruling elders from churches that have not provided a ruling elder commissioner to any of the previous five General Assemblies and to teaching elders who have not been a commissioner to any of the previous five General Assemblies. It will give consideration to congregation size and representation from the several Regions of the Presbytery. The Committee will also seek to nominate for balanced representation of ages, gender, racial/ethnic and theological understanding. When presenting its nominees to the Presbytery, the Committee shall provide brief biographical information of those being nominated in addition to the application form submitted by the commissioner nominee.

ELIGIBILITY TO SERVE

Teaching Elders

All teaching elders on the active, honorably retired, validated ministry, and member-at-large rosters of the Presbytery of Tampa Bay are eligible for nomination. Requirements include:

1. Enrolled in the Presbytery of Tampa Bay for at least three years prior to GA meeting.
2. Attended at least four of the Presbytery or Regional Presbytery stated meetings during the two calendar years prior to the meeting of an election year (currently even numbered years of GA).
3. Must be a member of the Presbytery at time of GA, and not actively engaged in a search that might lead to a departure from the Presbytery within 1 year after serving as a GA commissioner.

Ruling Elders

To be eligible, the session of the congregation from which a ruling elder is nominated ordinarily shall have sent commissioners to at least four of the Presbytery or Regional Presbytery stated meetings during the two calendar years prior to the meeting of an election year (currently even numbered years of GA). Additionally:

1. Shall be recommended by her/his session.
2. Not moving from the Presbytery at time of GA.

Young Adult Advisory Delegate

The nominees shall be active members of one of the churches of our Presbytery between the ages of 17 and 23 on the date the GA convenes. The nominee shall be recommended by the Session of her/his church and invited by the session to submit an application to the Committee on Nominations and Representation.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Applications shall be available on the website of the Presbytery. Applications may be submitted at any time, but the *deadline for submission is September 19, 2019* for the 224th General Assembly to be held in Baltimore, Md, from June 20-27, 2020. The Presbytery of Tampa Bay is scheduled to elect GA Commissioners at its Stated Meeting November 7, 2019.

The application includes the following information:

- 1) An agreement that the applicant is willing and able to report back to the Presbytery concerning the actions and experience of the GA. It is expected that all commissioners to the GA will report to the Presbytery through a variety of means during and following the GA.
- 2) A statement that the applicant understands and is willing to accept the rigors of participating fully in the work of the GA. Commissioners are required to read over 1,000 pages of online reports and overtures in advance. Long hours in committee meetings and plenary sessions, and considerable travel between the hotel and committee meeting rooms, plenary site, exhibit/eating areas and worship sites is to be expected.
- 3) Information as to whether the applicant has previously attended the GA as an elected commissioner from any Presbytery, or as a visitor.
- 4) A statement of the applicant's experience within the local church.
- 5) A description of the applicant's activities and service within the structures of the Presbytery and other Presbyterian Church (USA) governing bodies.
- 6) A brief paragraph describing the applicant's understanding of the nature and work of the GA.
- 7) A single page (500 word max.) with biographical information and a response to the statement, "Why I would make a good commissioner to GA."
- 8) A one page endorsement (500 word max.) from a teaching or ruling elder attesting to the applicant's involvement in the church as outlined in the application.
- 9) A statement as to the applicant's willingness to attend the GA as an alternate.
- 10) A recommendation from the session of the applicant's church, signed by the Clerk of Session.

TO BE CONSIDERED FOR NOMINATION AS A COMMISSIONER TO THE 224th GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN BALTIMORE, MD FROM JUNE 20-27, 2020:

1. Download an application from www.presbyteryoftampabay.org
2. Complete the application and biographical statement
3. Obtain an endorsement from a teaching or ruling elder
4. Have the Clerk of Session of your church sign the application
5. Return a completed application and all attachments by September 19, 2019
6. Retain a copy of your completed application and send the original to:

Presbytery of Tampa Bay
 Attn: Chair Committee on Nominations and Representation
 455 Scotland St #1,
 Dunedin, FL 34698
 OR by email to:
 PTB.GAApp@gmail.com

All GA commissioner Nominees' responses and biographical statements will be made available by the Presbytery to all presbyters at the November 7, 2019 stated meeting.