

**PRESBYTERY OF TAMPA BAY, INC.**  
**STATED MEETING SUMMARY**  
**Thursday, February 21, 2019; 9:00 a.m.**  
**First Presbyterian Church, St. Petersburg, Florida**

The Moderator, Rev. Loli Ros Reiter, called the February 21, 2019 Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Tampa Bay to order at 9:05 a.m. The meeting served both as a meeting of the ecclesiastical governing body of the Presbyterian Church (USA) and a meeting of the Presbytery of Tampa Bay, Inc., a non-profit corporation of the State of Florida.

The meeting was opened with prayer by the Moderator. The Stated Clerk declared that a quorum was present.

The docketed agenda was approved.

Rev. Dawn Conti, Pastor of First Presbyterian Church of St. Petersburg, welcomed the Presbytery. The Moderator then asked that first-time Commissioners and Corresponding Members rise and introduce themselves.

The Moderator appointed the following tellers:

- Earl Whitlock
- Dave Luhser
- Andy Staley
- Cheryce Harris
- Andrew Walton
- Kathi Trautwein

## **Consent Agenda**

The Presbytery voted to adopt the Consent Agenda:

### **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.

## **Presbytery Worship**

The Presbytery then moved into a time of worship where Rev. Norm Hatter preached, and Ruling Elder Patrice Hatley read the Necrology. Revs. Vicki ByRoade, Eneyas Freitas, Susan Hill and Bill Wildhack and Elders Bob Fort and Johnathan Owen, Candidate Malissa Garcia and musician Jack Rain also participated in the service. An offering in the amount of \$2,004 was taken on behalf of Ready for Life.

## **Reports, Part 1**

*Committee on Bills and Overtures*

*Robert Shaw*

Jim Gregory spoke to the search process for the 224<sup>th</sup> General Assembly on behalf of the Committee on Nominations and Representation. Vivian Bryant also spoke to her experiences as a Commissioner to the 223<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly.

Robert shared the results of the work of the Committee on Bills and Overtures with the Presbytery. The committee recommends approval of all amendments to the Book of Order, other than item 18-C. Robert, on behalf of the committee, then moved the approval of all items under consideration, other than item 18-C, for approval by the Presbytery.

Loli then offered commissioners a chance to remove any items for separate consideration. Hearing none, she proceeded to call for a vote on the motion to approve items 18-A, 18-B.1, 18-B.2, 18-D, 18-E, 18-F, 18-G, 18-H-1 and 18-H-2. The amendments were approved.

Following the vote, Robert moved the final item, 18-C, for consideration by the Presbytery. After discussion, the amendment was disapproved.

## **Order of the Day**

Loli introduced Walk Jones from Westminster Communities, who closed this portion of the meeting with a blessing for lunch. The Presbytery then organized itself into networking groups for conversation regarding the topic of the day, helping children. These groups were to go straight to the Order of the Day, lunch, at noon.

## **Reports, Part 2**

*Commission on Ministry*

*Laurie Palmer*

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

This motion passed with celebration and prayer.

Laurie also moved the merger of Bel Mar Presbyterian Church of Tampa and Palma Ceia Presbyterian Church, Tampa.

John DeBevoise, Pastor of Palma Ceia, moved a substitute motion to correct a few deficiencies in the original documentation. The motion was seconded.

After perfecting the main motion and the substitute motion, the substitute motion became the main motion. The Presbytery approved this motion, as the way be clear with additional approval from the sessions of Bel Mar and Palma Ceia.

*Coach and Coordinator*

*Patrice Hatley*

Patrice reported on her ministry in the Presbytery. She lifted up concerns shared by many about finding new members and helping those who need help in our communities. She also encouraged Presbyters to attend the Association of Small Churches meeting in March.

## **Plenary: Helping Kids as a Guardian Ad Litem**

Revs. Jean and Bill Cooley and Rev. Marilyn Cummings answered questions about helping kids as a Guardian ad Litem.

## **Reports, Part 3**

*Committee on Nominations and Representation*

*Vicki ByRoade*

The Committee on Nominations and Representation nominates the following persons for election to the positions 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 the regions 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 2020-1 means class of 2020 serving first term. Please also note the following abbreviation key:

Ordination status:

- C for clergy who identify themselves ordained as ministers of word and sacrament
- E for those persons who are ordained as elders

Gender:

- M for Male identity and 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

After an opportunity for nominations, the slate was approved.

Vicki also reminded the Presbytery that nominations for the next General Assembly will be happening later this year. Rebecca Higman, who took a class in seminary regarding the GA, also gave a brief report on what happens at General Assemblies.

Coordinating Team

Libby Shannon

Libby reported that this will be David Baker's last meeting as Stated Clerk. Libby moved that the Presbytery approve Bill Wildhack as Acting Stated Clerk, effective immediately. Dave (as temporary Stated Clerk) and Bill (as Acting Stated Clerk) would serve concurrently for one week. The motion passed.

Libby spoke to the history of transformation in our Presbytery, and then invited Micki Robinson to speak to the new proposed new staff position. Libby moved that the Presbytery approve this new Presbytery staff position, titled Emerging Ministries Associate. The position would be for a designated term of 2 years. The motion passed.

Treasurer Terry Dennis reported that the Presbytery's prior year finances went very well. He also presented the 2019 budget, which Libby moved that the Presbytery approve. The motion passed.

### **Reports of Staff, Officers and Partners:**

Cedarkirk Camp and Conference Center

John Reiter

John introduced one of Cedarkirk's Program Directors to share about the various programs and events happening at Cedarkirk. He also shared about Cedarkirk's Capital Campaign; they have raised \$1.5 million so far. The Presbytery will match donations to the campaign up to a total of \$100,000.

Beth-El Farmworkers Ministry

Kathy Dain

Kathy brought greetings from Beth-El. She reminded the Presbytery of the needs of farm workers, and invited churches and individuals to come to Beth-El.

*Moderator*

*Loli Ros Reiter*

Loli reported on her work as Moderator. She's assisted in many installations and ordinations, as well as spent time with the Presbyterian Women. She also told jokes as a way to promote Holy Humor Sunday.

*Vice Moderator*

*Johnathan Owen*

John reported that he attended the Moderator's conference and learned a lot.

*Stated Clerk*

*Bill Wildhack*

Bill appointed David Baker temporary Stated Clerk through the end of February.

Bill then reminded Minister Members that Minister ID tags are in name tags lanyard, and should be removed before returning the lanyard to the Presbytery. He also reminded the Presbytery to return evaluations, and that, unlike Dave Baker, his position will be part time.

Bill reported that there are still 5 churches who need to complete Annual Statistical Reports.

At this point, the Moderator presented Dave Baker with a parting gift and called on Claudia Henderson to give a short presentation.

## **Unfinished Business and Thanks**

Loli thanked Dawn Conti and First St. Pete for hosting us, Walk Jones and Westminster Communities for lunch, and the Presbytery staff for their help.

The Presbytery voted to adjourn at 3:03 pm.

Moderator Loli Ros Reiter dismissed us with prayer.

Submitted by,

Rev. David Baker, temporary Stated Clerk for the Presbytery of Tampa Bay