

PRESBYTERY OF TAMPA BAY, INC.
Stated Meeting
Saturday, May 4, 2019; 9:00 a.m.
Northwood Presbyterian Church, Clearwater, Florida

MEETING SUMMARY

The Moderator, Rev. Loli Ros Reiter, called the May 4, 2019 Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Tampa Bay to order at 9:02 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 acting stated clerk, Rev. William Wildhack, declared that a quorum was present.

The docketed agenda was approved.

Rev. Chris Curvin, Pastor of Northwood Presbyterian Church, welcomed the Presbytery. His welcome included describing an interesting ministry of a deacon at the church, who makes string crosses to be worn and then given away – and members of Northwood then distributed string crosses to the meeting.

The Moderator then asked that first-time Commissioners, Corresponding Members, and new minister members rise and introduce themselves.

The Moderator appointed the following tellers: Sue McClew, Cheryce Harris, Jack Alwood, Dick Powell, Robin Powell, and Catherine Thomas.

Consent Agenda

The Presbytery voted to adopt the Consent Agenda:

Reports without Motions (received for information):

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

Reports with Motions (for action by presbytery):

Stated Clerk:

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

Presbytery Worship

In our time of worship, Reverend Ron Pfeifer preached and Rev. Keonbae Kim celebrated the sacrament of the Lord's Supper. The prayer following communion was offered by JyungIn "Jenny" Lee, Moderator of Presbyterian Women in the PC(USA). The choir of Northwood Presbyterian Church offered a special anthem, "Daughters of Promise, Women of Faith," commissioned by two members of the choir in honor of their mothers, described in the music notes as "women of faith who lived their lives as an example of the love of Christ to their family and community." Others participating in leading worship included Rev. Miguel Santamaria, Rev. Will Wellman, Elder Katherine Calhoun, Elder Kevin Schwabe, and Northwood Presbyterian Organist and Associate Music Director Thomas Huffman and Music Director Stephanie Carson.

An offering totalling \$1,275.90 was collected on behalf of the Refugee & Migrant Women's Initiative (RAMWI), to support its mission to bring newly arrived refugee, migrant and other vulnerable women residing in Tampa Bay together.

Reports, Part 1

Commission on Preparation for Ministry (CPM) -- Deb Belusa

Rev. Deb Belusa, chair of CPM, described the process of inquiry and candidacy and CPM's excitement about Rebecca "Becky" Higman and having approved her transition from the inquiry phase to the candidacy phase. Rev Miguel Santamaria then introduced Becky to the Presbytery, who gave information on her faith journey so far and sense of call, answered questions, and was warmly received.

Cedarkirk Camp and Conference Center -- John Reiter

Rev. John Reiter updated the presbytery on staffing and registration---ahead of where it was at this point last year but also still have openings in many camps along with a few more openings for staff, volunteer nurses, and volunteer worship leaders. John invited everyone to the open house on May 11, and gave an update on Cedarkirk's Capital Campaign including a reminder that the Presbytery will match donations to the campaign up to a total of \$100,000.

Beth-El Farmworkers Ministry -- Tamara Leonard-Lara

Rev. Tamara Leonard-Lara, pastor of the Nuevo Camino worshipping community at Beth-El brought greetings from Director Kathy Dain and introduced MaryEllen Welton Barragán, Community Outreach Manager. She reminded the Presbytery of the needs for more mentors for farm workers and their families, invited churches and individuals to come to Beth-El as

volunteers or to learn about the mission, and showed a brief video about the Health and Wellness Center.

Order of the Day -- JyungIn (Jenny) Lee, Moderator for Presbyterian Women in the PC(USA), Inc

Loli introduced JyungIn (Jenny) Lee, Moderator for Presbyterian Women in the PC(USA), Inc. as our keynote speaker for the day. After introducing the presbytery to the multifaceted work of Presbyterian Women across the PC(USA), Jenny gave an informative and inspirational talk, reflecting on a connection she has felt with the Canaanite woman in Matthew 15 as an outsider welcomed by Jesus despite others' views and reflected that what Jesus gives is more than enough even if it appears that what we are receiving are just the crumbs that fall from the table.

Reports, Part 2

Commission on Church Vitality (CCV) -- Micki Robinson

Micki reported on the Association of Smaller Congregation's Annual Meeting and Conference, held recently at St. Simons Island, and other actions taken by the Commission. She then introduced Norma Johnson, a member of the board of Villa International, to speak briefly of the work of Villa International, described in its annual report to the Synod of the South Atlantic as "an ecumenical ministry of hospitality that offers affordable, safe, comfortable and convenient short-term housing, primarily to international healthcare professionals who come to study and conduct research at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Emory University's Rollins School of Public Health, its hospitals and many of its related graduate research departments."

Following Norma's presentation, Micki introduced John Scott, pastor of Christ Presbyterian Church in Largo, to speak of his experience at the Small Church Conference and the connections he made with small churches from all over.

Following the report of CCV, the moderator asked the will of the body regarding the remaining business of the day. By common consent, the presbytery amended the docket to take up the motion from the coordinating team at this point.

Coordinating Team (CT) Part 1 – Micki Robinson

Given that the Coordinating Team was recommending that the Presbytery call the current chair of the CT to serve on the presbytery staff, the moderator asked Micki Robinson to introduce the report, and then asked the acting stated clerk, in his role as recording clerk for the CT, to speak briefly to the process the CT followed in reaching this recommendation; the clerk's comments clarified that Libby had taken no part in the discussion on the new staff position following her decision to apply, and that the moderator of the presbytery had instead served as acting chair of CT for those discussions. Micki Robinson then moved the following on behalf of the Coordinating Team:

- **That the Presbytery of Tampa Bay approve calling Rev. Elizabeth “Libby” Shannon as Emerging Ministries Associate for a two-year term, which may be extended as determined by the presbytery, as described in the position description approved at the Stated Meeting of the Presbytery on February 21, 2019.**

The moderator invited questions from the floor, and following discussion, the presbytery voted to approve the call.

At the request of John DeBevoise, the moderator asked the clerk to take note of John’s comments strongly supporting what he called a great outcome for the presbytery in issuing this call after what was a very abbreviated process, contrasting that with the timelines and guidelines required of churches seeking pastoral and other professional staff, and encouraging the Commission on Ministry to take that into consideration in the future.

Following a recess for networking groups to meet, including a breakout session with the plenary speaker, the Vice Moderator reconvened the presbytery to conclude the day’s business.

Reports, Part 3

Committee on Nominations and Representation -- Vicki ByRoade

The Committee on Nominations and Representation nominated 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

Presbytery Geographic Region:

-E for East

-C for Central

-W for West

· **Commission on Preparation for Ministry (CPM)**

- Cheryl Duke; CFW-E---2020-0
- Henry Elam; EMB-W--2021-1

· **Commission on Church Vitality (CCV)**

- John Scott; CMW-W-2020-0
- Bob Scott; CMW-W-2021-1
- Haemin Lee; CMA-W—2020-0

Vicki noted that the committee is working to fill additional vacancies for CCV, Cedarkirk, and the Synod of the South Atlantic, and reminded the Presbytery that the deadline for submitting an application for serving as a commissioner for the 224th General Assembly (2020) is September 19, 2019.

Coordinating Team (CT) Part 2 -- Libby Shannon

The Vice Moderator then invited Libby Shannon to return to the platform to briefly report on CT's other recent work. In addition to completing the CT report, Libby offered her thanks to the CT for being a great group to work with and to the presbytery for its words of encouragement for her new ministry with us.

Reports of Staff and Officers

Moderator -- Loli Ros Reiter

Loli reported on her work as Moderator, speaking of her excitement in participating in a recent "Table of Abraham" gathering of Jews, Muslims, and Christians (with a large number of Presbyterians) in Tampa. She described part of the focus of the event as finding ways to be in community with each other, not only celebrating the things we have in common but also recognizing and acknowledging our differences. She also briefly reported on the recent stated meeting of the Synod of the South Atlantic.

Vice Moderator -- Jonathan Owen

Jon described attending a recent Stewardship Workshop at Montreat focused on revitalizing stewardship and generosity in churches in light of changes in church and society. He said that attendees were encouraged to organize people to act on their interests, learning their interests by having relational meetings with different kinds of donors. The workshop also encouraged participants to explore and implement different approaches to capital campaigns, funding endowments, earned income strategies, and year-round stewardship and report back in a year. In response to a question from the floor, Jonathan will make additional information about the workshop available through the eNews.

Acting Stated Clerk -- Bill Wildhack

Bill reported on the offering collected in morning worship and offered his thanks for the efforts of so many to complete the annual statistical reports, noting that more had done so this year than last year. He reported on progress across the denomination in voting on amendments to the Book of Order, and called attention to comments in his printed report about the public-facing and login-required sides of the presbytery website, and invited users of both parts of the website to send him feedback. He also thanked the presbytery for its patience as he continues to learn.

Unfinished Business and Thanks

Jonathan thanked Northwood Presbyterian Church for hosting us, and the Presbytery for its work during the meeting, then returned the gavel to Loli for closing comments and thanks, and the presbytery voted to adjourn at 2:22 pm.

Moderator Loli Ros Reiter dismissed us with prayer.

Submitted by,

Rev. William A. Wildhack III, Acting Stated Clerk for the Presbytery of Tampa Bay