

**MINUTES
FROM
THE

STATED MEETING
OF
PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY**

**Saturday
November 12, 2022
In Person Meeting**

**Cypress Lake Presbyterian Church
Fort Myers, Florida**

CALL TO ORDER

The Stated Meeting of Peace River Presbytery was held on Saturday, November 12, 2022, at Cypress Lake Presbyterian Church, Fort Myers, Florida. This was an in-person meeting.

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order and opened with prayer by Moderator, RE Linda Getzen, at 9:00 a.m.

QUORUM:

The Stated Clerk, Rev. Dr. Randy Moody, declared a quorum present.

WELCOME:

A welcome was given by hosting church pastor, Rev. Eddie Bellis.

DOCKET:

It was moved by the Stated Clerk and seconded that the Docket of the Stated Meeting, Saturday, November 12, 2022, be approved. MOTION CARRIED, and the meeting came to order at 9:05 a.m.

INDEX

(pages)

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| 1. | Cover |
| 2. | Call to Order and Index Page |
| 3,4. | Attendance Pages |
| 5. | Docket – <u>Approved</u> |
| 6-8. | Stated Clerk’s Report – <u>Approved</u> |
| 8. | <u>General Presbyter’s Report</u> |
| 9-11. | Committee on Ministry – <u>Approved</u> |
| 11. | Steering Committee – <u>Approved</u> |
| 11-13. | Human Resources Team – <u>Approved</u> |
| 13-15. | Finance Team – <u>Approved</u> |
| 16-17. | <u>Mision Peniel Report - Approved</u> |
| 18. | <u>Unfinished Business</u> – none |
| 18. | <u>Call to Worship</u> |
| 18. | <u>Lunch</u> was served by wonderful volunteers from the host church. |
| 18. | Keynote Speaker – Rev. Dr. Carlos Ham |
| 18. | Signature Page |
| 19 thru 31. | <u>Appendix’s</u> |
| (pages 19-22) | (A) – 2023 Proposed Budget and Budget Information |
| (pages 23-24) | (B) – Communication, Connection & Community Team |
| (pages 25-27) | (C) – Presbyterian Women’s Report |
| (pages 28) | (D) – Tidbits from Treasurer |
| (pages 29) | (E) – Committee on Preparation for Ministry |
| (pages 30-31) | (F) – 225 th General Assembly Report from GA Commissioners |

MINISTERS

Attendance

Saturday, November 12, 2022, Stated Meeting

The following members of presbytery were **PRESENT**:

Scott Andrews	Clint Cottrell	Laurie Haas	Ray Quiles
Jim Berger	Lauren Davis	Bruce Hedgepeth	Melana Scruggs
Timothy Boggess	Elizabeth Deibert	Jennifer Kirbas	Bill Sitterley
Ed Brandt	Richard Deibert	Jim Kirk	Ruth Smalt
Hmingi Browne	Courtney Ducharme	Mike Mansperger	Tim Stewart
Will Browne	Miguel Estrada	Randy Moody	Bill Teng
Bill Clough	Craig Goodrich	Lyn Olson	Carolyn Wilson

Ministers Present: 28

The following members of presbytery were **EXCUSED** for all or part of the meeting:

Rob Marrow	Kevin Morris	Ron Miller	Tom Purchase
Melanie Kim Hamill	Devon Andrews	Chuck Moffitt	Paul Reiter
Margaret Towner	Edward Dunn	Sung Lee	RC Smith
Chris Romig	Rex Childs	Bruce Wismer	Terri Jo Crego
Floyd Churn	Lou Thompson	Karen Wismer	
Russ Hickman	Pablo Diaz	John Foulkrod	

Ministers Excused: 22

Other Attendance

Saturday, November 12, 2022, Stated Meeting

Voting Committee and/or Team Members

1. Linda Getzen	3. Beverly Grady
2. Carson Brown	

Voting Steering Committee Members: 3

Corresponding Members:

1. Miguel Estrada	2. Edward Dawkins	3. Rev. Modesto Diaz
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Corresponding Members: 3

Commissioned Ruling Elders:

None

Commissioned Ruling Elders: 0

Certified Christian Educators:

None

Certified Christian Educators: 0

Ministers Present: 28 Commissioners Present: 45 Other Voting Members Present: 3 Total Voting Present: 76

Corresponding Members: 3 Certified Educators: 0 CRE: 0 Visitors: 9 Total Non-Voting: 12

TOTAL PRESENT: 88

- Number of Churches with NO Elder representation: 11
- Number of Churches with partial Elder representation: 14
- Number of Churches with NO Clergy representation: 19
- Number of Churches with NO representation: 11
- Number of Ministers asking to be excused: 22
- Number of Ministers absent: 59

Ruling Elder Commissioners
Attendance – Saturday, November 12, 2022, Stated Meeting

<u>Church</u>	<u>#</u>		<u>Present</u>		<u>Church</u>	<u>#</u>		<u>Present</u>
<u>Arcadia</u>	2	1.	Jill Maassen		<u>Naples continued</u>			
First		2.	Edward Maassen		Moorings	3	45.	None
							46.	None
<u>Bonita Springs</u>							47.	None
First	4	3.	William Jones		Vanderbilt	3	48.	P Hand? Could not read writing
		4.	Chuck Wolf				49.	-----
		5.	Ronald Maki				50.	-----
		6.	Joan Faux		<u>North Port</u>			
<u>Bradenton</u>					St. Paul's	2	51.	None
Braden River	2	7.	Lois McGill				52.	None
		8.	-----		<u>Palmetto</u>			
First, Bradenton	2	9.	None		Palmetto	2	53.	None
		10.	None				54.	None
Kirkwood	2	11.	None		<u>Port Charlotte</u>			
		12.	None		First	2	55.	Elaine Woods
Palma Sola	2	13.	Gail Dickerson				56.	Ambrose Woods
		14.	Ron Dickerson		Wintergarden	2	57.	Lynn Webster
Westminster	2	15.	None				58.	-----
		16.	None		<u>Punta Gorda</u>			
Oak Pointe Church	2	17.	None		Burnt Store	2	59.	Lois Gorman
		18.	None				60.	?? Could not read writing
<u>Cape Coral</u>					<u>Sarasota</u>			
Faith	4	19.	Chas McClinton		Bee Ridge	2	61.	Dawnmarie Daniels-Carsky
		20.	Tracy Lima				62.	-----
		21.	Mila Hill					
		22.	-----		Church of the Palms	4	63.	Maxine Perry
<u>Englewood</u>							64.	Marlene Peteo
Community	2	23.	Bill Kraft				65.	Jeanne Asakura
		24.	Jim O'Harrow				66.	-----
<u>Fort Myers</u>					First	3	67.	Kay Steinman
Buckingham	2	25.	Roy Lipsett				68.	Dave Hawholler
		26.	-----				69.	-----
Covenant	2	27.	Beverly Grady		Northminster	2	70.	Sandra Stiles
		28.	Mary Watford Arnes				71.	Norman Jatho
Cypress Lake	2	29.	Nick Presti		Pine Shores	2	72.	Bert Mitchell
		30.	Chris King				73.	-----
Estero Community	2	31.	None		PC of the Covenant	2	74.	Alice Sherwin
Former Hope United		32.	None				75.	Judith Bremer
Holy Trinity	2	33.	David McCurrach		Siesta Key Chapel	2	76.	Shy Davis
		34.	-----				77.	-----
<u>Ft. Myers Beach</u>								
Chapel by the Sea	2	35.	Jennifer Pinkard		<u>Lakewood Ranch</u>			
		36.	-----		Peace	2	78.	Mickey Miller
<u>Lehigh Acres</u>							79.	Sally Schoeffel
First	2	37.	Pamela Inniss					
		38.	-----		<u>Venice</u>			
<u>Longboat Key</u>					Trinity	2	80.	None
Christ Church	2	39.	None				81.	None
		40.	None		Venice	3	82.	None
<u>Naples</u>							83.	None
First	3	41.	Walter "Bill" Kearney				84.	None
		42.	Carleton Cleveland					
Lely	2	43.	Bonnie Hartley					
		44.	-----					
Elder Commissioners: 45								



Peace River Presbytery
STATED MEETING
 Saturday, November 12, 2022
DOCKET
Cypress Lake Presbyterian Church
 Meeting **begins** at 9:00 a.m.
 Registration begins at 8:00 a.m.



APPROVED Unanimously

- 8:00 a.m. Registration Begins
- 9:00 a.m. Meeting is Called to Order, Moderator Linda Getzen
- Opening Prayer**
*God of every breath we take, God who knows us all, and loves us just the same:
 We gather together before You as the family of Peace River Presbytery. More battered and weary since we last gathered. So many have lost so much. Neighbors, friends and loved ones are suffering. Beautiful places have disappeared. Grief and sadness stab at our hearts. Yet, we survive, we persevere. We are your faithful people. We are the mustard seed. We rise to move mountains-of debris, of fallen trees, of mud. We care for your people. We shall rebuild and replant this precious place. We have a solid foundation in You. This morning, we ask for your guidance in the work we have before us. Give us gentle hearts and perceptive minds. Let us use our tongues in thoughtful and respectful discussions with our fellow Christians. We do not always agree, but we are your family. In the midst of our differences, let us steadfastly hold on to our love for one another. In your son Jesus' name, we ask all of these things, and so much more in our hearts that has been left unspoken, Amen.*
- 9:05 a.m. Stated Clerk's Report..... Randy Moody..... A
- General Presbyter..... Melana Scruggs..... B
- 9:20 a.m. Committee on Ministry Report..... Beverly Grady..... C
- 10:33 a.m. **Motion to enter into Executive Session – Approved**
 Prayer offered by Courtney Ducharme
- 11:00 a.m. **Motion to move out of Executive Session - Approved**
- 11:02 a.m. Steering Committee Report..... Clint Cottrell..... D
- Human Resource Team Report..... Elizabeth Deibert..... E
- 11:23 a.m. Finance Team Report..... Max Gould..... F
- 11:07 a.m. Misión Peniel Team Report..... Bill Sitterley / Miguel Estrada..... G
- 1:50 p.m. Communication, Connection, & Community Team..... Carson Brown
- 1:55 p.m. Presbyterian Women..... Sandra Wharton
- 2:02 p.m. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance..... Jim Kirk
- 2:11 p.m. PMA Mission Engagement..... Sy Hughes
- 10:55 a.m. Closing Prayer for Business meeting..... Moderator, Linda Getzen
God of all things seen and unseen, we pray that the bits of business we have accomplished today are what You want us to do. Guide us as we try to be your hands and feet, clumsy as we are sometimes. We know You are suffering with your people, but that suffering is never your last word. Help us dwell not in the past, but face into the future with hope. We ask for your aid and encouragement during the challenging days to come. Let all of your children be comforted in knowing You love us all and that You are always with us. For that, we truly can be thankful. In Jesus' name, we seek your blessing, Amen.
- ~~11:00 a.m.~~ Call to Worship – Rev. Eddie Bellis & Rev. Modesto Diaz
- 11:45 a.m. Sermon Title: “Jiggle the Wire or The Real Fix” Scriptures: John 4:4-42
 Communion Offering - (the offering from this meeting will go to Beth-El) **\$920.00**
 Installation Service of the 2023 Presbytery Moderator – RE Carson Brown

~~12:00 p.m.~~ Lunch and Fellowship
12:30 p.m.

~~1:15 p.m.~~ Keynote Speaker – GA Commissioners – Question and Answer
Rev. Rex Childs, Rev. Cori Rigney, RE Linda Getzen, RE Clint Belk, YAAD Carson Brown

2:15 p.m.
Seeing and hearing a lot about what happened at this year's PC(USA) General Assembly? Wondering how it impacts you and your congregation? Today's keynote time will feature a conversation with Peace River Presbytery's commissioners and young adult advisory delegate to the 225th General Assembly this past summer. Hear about their experiences serving on committees, their views on some of the most meaningful items to emerge from this GA and understand how these things impact our local congregations here in Peace River.

Stated Clerk’s Report

APPROVED Unanimously

1. Declaration of Quorum.
 2. Approval of our Docket for today’s meeting.
 3. Enrollment of Corresponding Members.
Rev. Edward Dawkins, Modesto Diaz, Miguel Estrada.
 4. a. The following Commission Report was received:
 - ◆ Moorings Presbyterian Church, Naples, Administrative Commission continues its work.
 - ▶ **Motion to add Rev. Kevin Morris to the Administrative Commission. APPROVED**
 - b. The following Commission Report was received, and the Stated Clerk **moved** the report be made a part of the record of this meeting and that the Commission be dismissed with appreciation: **APPROVED**
 - ◆ Ordination of Lauren Davis on Tuesday, November 1, 2022, at Faith Presbyterian Church, Cape Coral.
5. Members of Presbytery who have asked to be **EXCUSED** for **ALL** or **PART** of this Meeting.

Name		Church		Name		Church	
Rob Marrow	Vanderbilt, Naples	Pablo Diaz	Moorings, Naples				
Melanie Kim Hamill	Member-at-Large	Ron Miller	HR				
Margaret Towner	HR	Chuck Moffitt	HR				
Chris Romig	Venice, Venice	Sung Lee	Kirkwood, Bradenton				
Floyd Churn	HR	Bruce Wismer	Pine Shores, Sarasota				
Russ Hickman	HR	Karen Wismer					
Kevin Morris	Estero Community Church, Estero	John Foulkrod	HR				
Devon Andrews	Wintergarden, Port Charlotte	Tom Purchase	Northminster, Sarasota				
Edward Dunn	Palma Sola/Westminster, Bradenton	Paul Reiter	HR				
Rex Childs	First, Naples	RC Smith	HR				
Lou Thompson	HR	Terri Jo Crego	Bee Ridge, Sarasota				

▶ **Motion: moved to approve any additional excused request that my come in. APPROVED**

6. a. St. Paul’s Presbyterian Church, North Port, is unable to work and worship in their facility due to extensive damage from Hurricane Ian. Also, their pre-school is unable to operate which provided a significant amount of their operating expenses.
 - b. Peace River Presbytery **approved** the Moderator, in consultation with the General Presbyter and Stated Clerk, to appoint an Administrative Commission with the authority to assume original jurisdiction to work with the members and session of St. Paul’s Presbyterian Church, North Port, to seek the will of Christ for their future.
APPROVED
7. **Moved** that the Stated Clerk and the Moderator of the Presbytery review and approve the minutes from this meeting.
APPROVED

8. The following individuals completed terms on the Permanent Judicial Commission the previous six-years and are eligible to be recalled, as necessary:

- √ Ruling Elder, Judy Bremer, Presbyterian Church of the Covenant, Sarasota
- √ Ruling Elder, Emilie Kimbrough, First Presbyterian Church, Sarasota
- √ Ruling Elder, Don Cady, Covenant Presbyterian Church, Fort Myers
- √ Teaching Elder, Kathleen Wiggins, HR, Venice
- √ Teaching Elder, Clint Cottrell, Holy Trinity PC, N. Fort Myers

9. **NECROLOGY REPORT**

The names of the following persons who have served the Presbyterian Church and have joined the Church Triumphant are to be recorded in the Minutes of Presbytery and the Presbytery will be **led in prayer by Rev. Scott Andrews.**

	Name	Presbyterian Church	Date of Death	Age
Teaching Elder	Joseph W. Amory Jr.	Honorably Retired	08/05/2022	92
Teaching Elder	Larry A. Barnes	Honorably Retired	07/2022	83
Teaching Elder	Sally Ann Bull	Honorably Retired	03/29/2022	79
Teaching Elder	David E. Dietzel	Honorably Retired	06/23/2022	87
Teaching Elder	David E. King	Honorably Retired	07/13/2022	77
Teaching Elder	Philip B. Bliss	Honorably Retired	12/17/2021	91
Ruling Elder	A. Kay Holloman	First PC, Arcadia	04/16/2022	83
Ruling Elder	Richard “Dick” Dutton	Peace, Lakewood Ranch	10/31/2021	84
Ruling Elder	Chuck McClurg	Peace, Lakewood Ranch	02/06/2022	83
Ruling Elder	Toby Allen McCallister	Peace, Lakewood Ranch	11/29/2022	76
Ruling Elder	Ida Schmid Thomas	Oak Pointe Church, Bradenton	03/05/2022	95
“Ida was the founding member of Whitfield Estates, now Oak Pointe Church”				
Ruling Elder	John S. Willson	Braden River, Bradenton	07/24/2022	72
Ruling Elder	Dorothy Elizabeth “Betty” Gilmore	First PC, Bradenton	11/09/2021	92
Ruling Elder	Elma Clara Merz Westney	First PC, Bradenton	09/04/2022	96
Ruling Elder	Donald Theos Zimmerman	First PC, Bradenton	06/04/2022	97
Ruling Elder	Jayne Cantwell	Kirkwood, Bradenton	08/03/2022	68
Ruling Elder	John “Jack” C. Fisher	Kirkwood, Bradenton	09/11/2022	92
Ruling Elder	Alan Margreither	Westminster, Bradenton	09/11/2022	88
Ruling Elder	Edwin Richter	Westminster, Bradenton	08/11/2022	87
Ruling Elder	Thomas R. Sprenger	Palma Sola, Bradenton	06/01/2021	90
Ruling Elder	Eugene Mittel	Palma Sola, Bradenton	09/14/2021	94
Ruling Elder	Robert Miller	Palma Sola, Bradenton	05/06/2022	87
Ruling Elder	Gloria Albritton	Bee Ridge, Sarasota	11/27/2021	92
Ruling Elder	George Thiel	Bee Ridge, Sarasota	12/22/2021	96
Ruling Elder	Kathryn Purcell	PC of the Covenant, Sarasota	01/27/2022	87
Ruling Elder	Harold Paul	PC of the Covenant, Sarasota	10/14/2021	92
Ruling Elder	Carol June Wright	PC of the Covenant, Sarasota	07/28/2022	97
Ruling Elder	John Boeve	Church of the Palms, Sarasota	07/22/2022	90
Ruling Elder	David Michael Wachtel	Church of the Palms, Sarasota	05/23/2022	83
Ruling Elder	Joan E. DeRue	Church of the Palms, Sarasota	03/29/2022	88
Ruling Elder	Harold “Sandy” Dunn	Venice, Venice	01/06/2022	95
Ruling Elder	Robert Novak	Venice, Venice	03/09/2022	94
Ruling Elder	Herbert “Skip” Sayers	Venice, Venice	05/03/2022	91
Ruling Elder	Nonnye Fanelli Meier	Lely, Naples	08/11/2022	86
Ruling Elder	Robert Kluttz	Lely, Naples	9/21/2022	88
Ruling Elder	J. Finley Lee	Vanderbilt, Naples	02/13/2022	82
Ruling Elder	John Rist	Vanderbilt, Naples	03/29/2022	85

Ruling Elder	Townsend Eugene Blanchard	Vanderbilt, Naples	05/22/2022	91
Ruling Elder	Elizabeth Jean Cameron Hahm	Vanderbilt, Naples	08/05/2022	77
Ruling Elder	Andrey Getz	Community, Englewood	01/12/2022	72
Ruling Elder	Dick Crowell	Community, Englewood	12/02/2021	90
Ruling Elder	Billy Turner	Chapel by the Sea, FMB	03/16/2022	86
Ruling Elder	Maytha Harper	First PC, Lehigh Acres	05/09/2021	83
Ruling Elder	Jim Wilson	Christ Church, LBK	12/27/2021	95
Ruling Elder	Charles Gorham	Christ Church, LBK	04/06/2022	83
Ruling Elder	Jim Huber	Christ Church, LBK	01/21/2022	94
Ruling Elder	Matthew Stevenson	Northminster, Sarasota	07/30/2022	69

Temporary Clerks appointed for the day from the church were:

Lee Bomgaars, Joyce Botchford, Hawley Botchford, Cindy Carver, Betsy Howlett.

General Presbyter's Report

Rev. Melana Scruggs also gave a verbal report.

Work accomplished since November 1, 2021:

- ▶ Continued to work with Vital Congregations Initiative, 10 churches involved.
- ▶ Began Boundaries Training using case studies, offered six opportunities for participation.
- ▶ Have preached 29 times.
- ▶ Have attended 125 committee meetings.
- ▶ Have attended or moderated 35 session meetings.
- ▶ Worked to plan and facilitate the new presbytery website.
- ▶ Pastoral Care calls after the hurricane to most pastors in the presbytery.
- ▶ Have provided orientation or training with PNCs on 11 occasions.
- ▶ Attended many GA committee meetings and all of the plenary meetings via Zoom.
- ▶ Provided officers training in 6 churches.
- ▶ Met with other Mid-Council Leaders 10 times and attended an in-person Synod Leaders' Gathering.
- ▶ Worked with Alesia to relocate the Presbytery office from North Port to Port Charlotte.
- ▶ Working with a Task Force to provide grants after Hurricane Ian.
- ▶ Worked with the CCC Team to plan a presbytery-wide retreat at Cedarkirk.
- ▶ Worked with two congregations on immigration visas for new pastors.
- ▶ Have worked with Misión Peniel team and attorneys on property lawsuit.

Committee on Ministry Report

The Moderator recognized the Chair of the Committee, Ruling Elder Beverly Grady.

Welcomed:

- ◆ Rev. Lauren Davis, November 1, 2022, Faith PC, Cape Coral
- ◆ Rev. Scott Andrews, Pastor, Community PC, Englewood, October 2, 2022.
- ◆ Rev. Dr. Timothy Boggess, Pastor, First PC, Sarasota, October 3, 2022.

Recognized the Transition of:

- ◆ Rev. Lynne Peter, Pastor, Oak Pointe Church, Bradenton.

Celebrated the:

- ◆ Ordination Service of Rev. Lauren Davis as Interim Associate Pastor of Faith Presbyterian Church, Cape Coral, on Tuesday, November 1, 2022.

Recognized the Retirement of:

- Rev. Dr. Clinton Cottrell, effective December 7, 2022.

Presbytery's Approval

1. The Committee on Ministry recommended, Sarah Soboleski to serve as Executive Pastor in supporting the Senior Pastor, with Terms of Call beginning upon ordination and installation in January 2023.
 - a. The Committee on Ministry moved, that the Presbytery proceed to an examination for ordination of Sarah Soboleski to be conducted by the Presbytery. **APPROVED**
 - b. The Committee on Ministry moved that the Presbytery, pending satisfactory completion of the examination for ordination, approve the call to Sarah Soboleski as full-time Executive Pastor in supporting the Senior Pastor at Church of the Palms, Sarasota. **APPROVED**
 - c. The Committee on Ministry moved that the Presbytery approve the Terms of Call between Church of the Palms and Sarah Soboleski. **APPROVED**

Salary	\$78,000
AP Auto/Cell	<u>\$4,400</u>
Effective Salary	<u>\$82,400</u>
Medical (29%)	\$23,896
Pension (8.5%)	\$7,004
D&D (1%)	\$824
Temp Dis (.5%)	\$412
Dental	\$891
Vision	\$92
Supp Death	<u>\$401</u>
Total Board Benefits	<u>\$33,520</u>
Social Security Offset	\$6,304
Continuing Ed	\$1,500
Professional Exp	<u>\$1,500</u>
Total Package	<u>\$125,224</u>

Motion to arrest the examination /seconded. Approved

Motion to approve candidate. Approved

(72) Favor
(5) Abstain
(0) Against

- d. The Committee on Ministry moved that the Presbytery approve, if the way be clear, Sarah's Ordination Service planned with the Committee on Ministry. **APPROVED**

2. The Committee on Ministry recommended, Genevieve Beauchamp to serve as Associate Pastor for Worship and Music, with Terms of Call beginning upon ordination and installation in January 2023.
- a. The Committee on Ministry moved, that the Presbytery proceed to an examination for ordination of Genevieve Beauchamp to be conducted by the Presbytery. **APPROVED**
- b. The Committee on Ministry moved that the Presbytery, pending satisfactory completion of the examination for ordination, approve the call to Genevieve Beauchamp as full-time Associate Pastor for Worship and Music at Church of the Palms, Sarasota. **APPROVED**
- c. The Committee on Ministry moved that the Presbytery approve the Terms of Call between Church of the Palms and Genevieve Beauchamp. **APPROVED**

Salary	\$78,000
AP Auto/Cell	\$4,400
Effective Salary	\$82,400
Medical (29%)	\$23,896
Pension (8.5%)	\$7,004
D&D (1%)	\$824
Temp Dis (.5%)	\$412
Dental	\$891
Vision	\$92
Supp Death	\$401
Total Board Benefits	\$33,520
Social Security Offset	\$6,304
Continuing Ed	\$1,500
Professional Exp	\$1,500
Total Package	\$125,224

Motion to arrest the examination /seconded. Approved

Motion to approve candidate. Approved

(74) Favor
(4) Abstain
(0) Against

- d. The Committee on Ministry moved that the Presbytery approve, if the way be clear, Genevieve’s Ordination Service planned with the Committee on Ministry. **APPROVED**

3. a. Rev. Edward Dawkins – Candidate for Pastor at Northminster PC, Sarasota.
COM met with Rev. Edward Dawkins and the PNC for Northminster PC on August 9, 2022. Action was deferred to a special meeting on August 18, 2022 and voted 9 affirmative and 4 negative to recommend approving the call. According to the PRP Standing Rules, a COM vote on a call for a PCUSA teaching elder that is not unanimous must go to the full presbytery for a vote.

b. The Committee on Ministry moved:

10:33 a.m. After much discussion, a motion was made and seconded to go into executive session. Motion carried.

11:00 a.m. Motion to move out of executive session. Motion carried.

- (1) to receive Rev. Edward Dawkins from Shenandoah Presbytery and enroll him as a Member of Peace River Presbytery.
- (2) to concur with the Terms of Call, having a total effective salary of \$75,000.00, plus allowances and benefits as stated, to be approved by Northminster Presbyterian Church to call Rev. Edward Crowell Dawkins to serve as their Pastor beginning at a date to be determined.

<u>Effective salary</u>	
Cash Salary	\$ 30,000.00
Housing Allowance	\$ 45,000.00
Continuing Education	\$ 1,500.00

Moving Costs TBD, Full medical, pension, disability, and death benefit coverage under the Board of Pensions, Paid Vacation Four (4) weeks, Paid Continuing Education Two (2) weeks

Motion to call the candidate. Approved

(56) Favor
(21) Abstain
(2) Against

Motion to approve the terms of call. Approved

(54) Favor
(20) Abstain
(2) Against

4. The Committee on Ministry moved that Peace River Presbytery enroll Rev. Modesto Diaz as a Temporary Member of Peace River Presbytery. Rev. Diaz is a contracted part-time temporary supply pastor for the Spanish Speaking Ministries and Outreach with Cypress Lake Presbyterian Church, Fort Myers.

APPROVED

Steering Committee Report

The Moderator recognized the Chair of the Steering Committee, Rev. Dr. Clint Cottrell.

1. The Steering Committee nominated the following to serve on the Human Resource Committee:

Class of 2025

APPROVED

Teaching Elder, Bruce Hedgepeth
Teaching Elder, Chuck Wiggins

Class of 2023

Ruling Elder, Max Gould
Teaching Elder, Rex Childs
Ruling Elder, Geoff Baker, Co-Moderator

Human Resources Team Report

The Moderator recognized the Co-Chair of the Human Resource Team, Rev. Elizabeth Deibert.

1. The Human Resource Team nominated the following names:

APPROVED

PRP Moderator	1-year term	MRE	Carson Brown	Cypress Lake PC, Fort Myers
PRP Vice Moderator	1-year term	FTE	Laurie Haas	Church of the Palms, Sarasota
PRP Treasurer	3-year term	FRE	Charmaine Ponkratz	Burnt Store PC, Punta Gorda
At Large Steering Committee	3-year term	MTE	Rob Marrow	Vanderbilt PC, Naples
At Large Steering Committee	1-year term	MTE	Edward Dunn	Palma Sola/Westminster, Bradenton
Steering Committee Moderator		MTE	Rob Marrow	Vanderbilt PC, Naples
Blessing Grant	1-year term	FRE	Eirinn Camphire	Peace PC, Lakewood Ranch
Blessing Grant	1-year term	FRE	Pat Nordbrock	First PC, Naples
Blessing Grant	1-year term	MTE	Jody McKewen	Trinity PC, Venice
Finance Team	3-year term	HR	Tim Stewart	Buckingham PC, Fort Myers
Finance Team	3-year term	MRE	Edward Maassen	First PC, Arcadia
Finance Team	3-year term	MRE	Clint Belk	Faith PC, Cape Coral
Finance Team	2-year term	FRE	Mary Lynn Meyers	Vanderbilt PC, Naples
CCC Team	3-year term	FRE	Lynn Webster	Wintergarden PC, Port Charlotte
CCC Team	3-year term	FL	Amy Cerniglia	Peace PC, Lakewood Ranch
CCC Team	3-year term	FTE	Ruth Smalt	Siesta Key Chapel, Sarasota
CCC Team Co-Moderator		MRE	Jim O'Harrow	Community PC, Englewood
CCC Team Co-Moderator		FL	Amy Cerniglia	Peace PC, Lakewood Ranch
Mision Peniel Team	3-year term	MTE	Bill Sitterley	HR
Mision Peniel Team	3-year term	FRE	Joyce Botchford	Cypress Lake PC, Fort Myers
Mision Peniel Team	3-year term	MRE	Mark King	Faith PC, Cape Coral
Mision Peniel Team	2-year term	MTE	Scott Andrews	Community PC, Englewood
Mision Peniel Team	2-year term	MTE	Kevin Morris	Estero Community, Estero
Mision Peniel Team Moderator		MTE	Bill Sitterley	HR
Committee on Ministry	3-year term	MRE	Bill Kraft	Community PC, Englewood
Committee on Ministry	3-year term	FRE	Elaine Woods	First PC, Port Charlotte
Committee on Ministry	3-year term	MTE	Winston Lawson	HR
Committee on Ministry	3-year term	FTE	Nancy Kahaian	Faith PC, Cape Coral
Committee on Ministry	3-year term	MRE	Dave Nichols	First PC, Bonita Springs
Committee on Ministry	3-year term	MTE	Paul Kirbas	Validated Ministry
Committee on Ministry	3-year term	FRE	Christine Larson	Covenant PC, Fort Myers
Committee on Ministry	2-year term	FTE	Lyn Olson	HR
Committee on Ministry	2-year term	MRE	Robert Shermer	First PC, Bradenton
Committee on Ministry, Co Moderator		FRE	Linda Getzen	Church of the Palms, Sarasota
Committee on Ministry, Co Moderator		MRE	Bill Kraft	Community PC, Englewood

CPM	3-year term	FTE	Genevieve Beauchamp	Church of the Palms, Sarasota
CPM, Moderator		MTE	Rex Childs	First PC, Naples
Cedarkirk	3-year term	MRE	Bert Simmons	Wintergarden PC, Port Charlotte
Cedarkirk	3-year term	MM	Allen Simmons	Peace PC, Lakewood Ranch
Cedarkirk	3-year term	FM	Julia Simmons	Peace PC, Lakewood Ranch
Cedarkirk	2-year term	FRE	Julia Sammons	Peace PC, Lakewood Ranch
Beth-El	3-year term	MRE	Dean Vittetoe	Peace PC, Lakewood Ranch
FLAPDAN		MTE	Tom Purchase	Northminster PC, Sarasota
FLAPDAN		FL	Monika Jennings	Faith PC, Cape Coral
Synod Commissioner	3-year term	MRE	Carson Brown	Cypress Lake PC, Fort Myers
Synod Commissioner	3-year term	FTE	Sarah Soboleski	Church of the Palms, Sarasota
Presbytery Homes & Housing		MTE	Tom Purchase	Northminster PC, Sarasota
Readers for Exams	3-year term	FRE	Elaine Barnett	First PC, Sarasota
Readers for Exams	3-year term	MTE	Floyd Churn	HR

2. The Human Resource Team nominated the following Officers: **APPROVED**

- ▶ Rev. Dr. Rob Marrow, Vanderbilt PC - President of the Corporation
- ▶ Rev. Dr. Randy Moody, HR - Secretary of the Corporation
- ▶ Ruling Elder Charmaine Ponkratz - Treasurer
- ▶ Vice President of the Corporation - TBD

3. The Human Resource Team recommended an across-the-board Peace River Presbytery staff salary increase of 5%, except for the Vital Congregations Coordinator who had already received an increase in pay mid-year. This means a change in terms of call for ministers. **APPROVED**

a. The Human Resource Team recommended an increase of 5%, for the General Presbyter, and that the \$43,680.00 be designated for housing allowance. **APPROVED**

b. The Human Resource Team recommended increasing the General Presbyter's mileage budget from \$3,900 a year to \$7,500 a year, based on her increased travel. **APPROVED**

<u>Rev. Melana Scruggs</u> General Presbyter	<u>2022</u> Budget	<u>2023</u> Proposed Budget	Notes
Salary	\$57,200.00	\$60,060.00	5% increase
Housing Allowance	\$41,600.00	\$43,680.00	5% increase
SECA Allowance	\$7,559.00	\$7,936.11	7.65% of salary & housing
Continue Education	\$2,475.00	\$2,475.00	
Traveling & Lodging	\$2,400.00	\$2,400.00	
Auto Expenses	\$3,900.00	\$7,500.00	
Professional Expenses	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	
Pastoral Relations	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	
Medical & Pension Benefits	\$36,556.00	\$40,458.60	39% of salary & housing
Dental Allowance	\$1,125.00	\$1,125.00	
Total	\$156,315.00	\$169,134.71	

4. The Human Resource Team recommended an increase of 5%, for the Stated Clerk and that the \$19,467.00 be designated for housing allowance. **APPROVED**

<u>Rev. Dr. Randy Moody</u> Stated Clerk	<u>2022</u> Budget	<u>2023</u> Proposed Budget	Notes
Salary	\$18,952.00	\$19,899.60	5% increase
Housing Allowance	\$18,540.00	\$19,467.00	5% increase
Mbrship Fees/Mtg Expenses	\$1,700.00	\$1,700.00	
Professional Expenses/Mileage	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	
Total	\$41,692.00	\$43,566.60	

5. The Human Resource Team recommended an increase of 5%, for the Evangelist for Mision Peniel, and that the \$29,000.00 be designated for housing allowance. **APPROVED**

Rev. Miguel Estrada Mision Peniel Pastor	<u>2022</u> <u>Budget</u>	<u>2023</u> <u>Proposed Budget</u>	Notes
Salary	\$38,046.00	\$38,643.10	5% increase
Housing Allowance	\$26,376.00	\$29,000.00	5% increase
SECA Allowance	\$4,929.00	\$5,251.20	7.65% of Salary/Housing/Medical
Medical Supplement	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	Part of effective salary
Board of Pensions	\$24,206.00	\$26,770.81	39% of Salary/Housing/Medical
Continue Education	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	
Total	\$96,057.00	\$102,165.11	

Information Only:

1. The Human Resource Team met on June 8, July 27, August 10, September 7, and October 26, 2022.
2. Reviews of all staff were conducted in August and September. We are grateful to our staff for their dedication.
3. HR joins COM in recommending to all congregations:
5% COLA staff increases next year as well as being mindful of the Board of Pensions increase from 37% to 39%.
4. Thanks for sending your nominations using the Nomination Form which is on page E-4 of this report.

Finance Team Report

The Moderator recognized the Co-Chair of the Finance Team, Max Gould.

1. The Finance Team moved that Peace River Presbytery approve the 2023 Budget. **APPROVED**
2. The Finance Team moved lending St Paul’s Presbyterian Church, North Port and Chapel by the Sea, Fort Myers Beach, a combined total of up to \$150,000 at 3.5% annual interest rate. **APPROVED**

Conditioned on there being a written agreement signed by the church and presbytery that stipulates repayment will occur in one of two ways:

- 1) by the sale of the building/land or
- 2) if they remain in the building a repayment arrangement out of normal church operations is agreed upon by both parties.

Common understandings:

It is understood that no further obligations will be incurred by the churches in this agreement without approval by the General Presbyter in consultation with the Finance Team. It is understood in both cases the bills will be paid by the presbytery to the vendors, directly. It is understood that if either church were to close and sell their property, the proceeds would go to the presbytery. It is understood that if either church were to merge with another church and sell their property, the proceeds, less the amount owed to the presbytery, would go with them to the merged church.

Churches with Immediate Financial Needs:

- ▶ St. Paul’s Presbyterian Church, North Port.
The buildings were so heavily damaged by Hurricane Ian that they are not useable. The repairs will require \$400K+. They contracted for some preliminary mitigation work, estimated at \$125,000. They do not have the funds to fully pay for this work and definitely not enough to restore the buildings. It is estimated that they need \$60,000. The Presbytery has ordered that no additional work be contracted. The is a very small congregation. They do not have the means to pay for the restoration. It is likely St. Paul’s will have to sell their property. The church is located in a commercial area. The location is well suited for commercial development.

The contractors want to be paid for the work they have completed (approximately \$60K). The request is that either the Presbytery loan the St. Paul’s the money to pay the contractors or alternatively the Presbytery pay the contractors directly. In either case, the money would be paid back ether through insurance or more likely from

the proceeds from the sale of the property. The transaction needs to be documented and signed by both parties before money is released. It is noted that First Bonita donated \$10,000 and another church (outside the Presbytery) donated \$5,000.

► Chapel by the Sea, Fort Myers Beach

The buildings were destroyed by the Hurricane Ian. Total Ian expenditures to date are not known, but they may need \$40,000 from the Presbytery. Same arrangement as St. Paul's. Will be repaid to the Presbytery either with an insurance settlement or sale of the property. The transaction needs to be documented and signed by both parties before money is released. It is noted that First Naples donated \$10,000 to them already.

3. The Finance Team recommended, that Peace River Presbytery authorize the application for PILP funding and delegates to the Finance Team the selection of the funding option; self-funding or borrowing.

APPROVED

Finance Called Meeting October 31, 2022

■ Additional Monies Being Gifted for Hurricane Ian Recovery:

For your information other monies received are being reserved to be used as grants to churches with an on-going ministry post-hurricane. These grants are being administered by a Task Force appointed by the Steering Committee. Received and already distributed (from PCUSA) to the following churches):

- Covenant, Fort Myers - \$1,000 to rebuild Community Garden providing produce to farmworkers.
- Wintergarden, Port Charlotte - \$2,500 to purchase food for weekly Food Pantry, 350 families.
- First, Port Charlotte - \$1,000 – to purchase food for food pantry, 200 families.
- Estero Community Church - \$500 – to purchase food for meals for those out of homes.
- Cypress Lake, Fort Myers - \$2,500 to purchase food for food pantry, 350 families.

\$25,000 grant from PDA (restriction - \$5,000 per church) – application on the presbytery website and letter sent out at end of October for churches to request consideration by the Hurricane Ian Task Force.

\$70,000 Tropical Florida Presbytery: not awarded at this point – likely to be additional gifts from sister presbyteries and from individuals.

■ Purchase of Mision Peniel Building

- √ Peace River Presbytery approved building purchase up to \$600,000
- √ Steering Committee, acting in an emergency capacity, increased that to \$700,000
- √ Mediation failed last week, the lawsuit continues
- √ Mision Peniel has projected reserves of \$300,000, based on August investment data and YTD cash flow needs.
- √ Mision Peniel 2023 budget calls for a \$106,000 operating deficit, thus tapping their reserves.

Background, in the event that current property becomes available - Assume purchase price of \$700,000:

Option 1

Self-funding with either 10% or 20% from Mision Peniel - \$70,000 or \$140,000 – drawn from the MP reserves in the Presbytery general investment account and the remaining balance from otherwise unrestricted funds in the general investment account.

Use PILP loan rate to enter into an internal funds transfer agreement with Mision Peniel.

Example: using 20% down and \$560,000 from the general investment account with a 30-year amortization, the monthly principal and interest payment would be \$2,514. At 10% down, same assumptions, the monthly principal and interest payment would be \$2,828. It is noted that if Peace River Presbytery uses its own funds to purchase the property, and since Mision Peniel is not a separate entity, the monthly mortgage loan payments would be more accurately described as an “transfer-payment.” PILP loan terms are believed to be 3.5% for a 20-year term, not 30 years. With a \$600,000 loan that would generate a \$3,480 monthly principal and interest payment.

As per the August financials, Mision Peniel has a rent expense of \$20,340 or \$2,543 a month.

It is noted that there is nothing factored into the 2023 budget assumptions for any building maintenance or improvements. Also, there isn't a plan to build reserves for the inevitable needed major repairs needed.

With the purchase of the building there will be rental income from the on-site restaurant. The budget impact of that arrangement is not known.

Option 2

If the Finance Team were to recommend a PILP loan rather than self-funding the purchase, such action would require Presbytery action. See motion below. If presbytery approves PILP funding, it is suggested that the Finance Team be designated to make the funding choice.

4. The Finance Team recommended, that in anticipation of a successful resolution of the pending lawsuit regarding the existing Mision Peniel property, the following actions be taken by Finance Team in coordination with the Mision Peniel leadership: **APPROVED**
 - 1) obtain a professional appraisal,
 - 2) conduct a title search,
 - 3) conduct a full inspection All related costs charged to Mision Peniel reserves.

5. The Finance Team recommended, that as an alternative to the existing property, the Mision Peniel leadership, with guidance from the Finance Team, explore other available properties and potential partnerships. In the event of an alternative property option, the Presbytery authorizes the Finance Team to enter into a property purchase obligation of up to \$700,000 or a lease agreement of up to \$35,000 annually. Any alternate property would incur the same stipulation as the existing property: the following actions be taken by Finance Team in coordination with the Mision Peniel leadership, with all related costs charged to Mision Peniel reserves: **APPROVED**
 - 1) obtain a professional appraisal,
 - 2) conduct a title search,
 - 3) conduct a full inspection.

Mision Peniel Consideration Going Forward:

Over the past several years there has been considerable discussion about the desirability of spinning off Mision Peniel into its own 501(c)(3) entity. It is believed this would diversify their revenue stream and potentially allow the mission to continue as a viable operation in its current mission model.

The full financial impact of purchasing the property needs to be fully discussed with the Mision Peniel Team so that they are aware that the current mission model is yielding a deficit spending result, that there will be additional operating costs, building repairs and improvements and time allocation to manage the property.

It would be helpful for a task force to be established to consider the option of establishing Mision Peniel as a separate non-profit entity.

Misión Peniel Team Report

1. The Misión Peniel Team moved that their proposed budget for 2023 be approved.
(See budget below)

APPROVED

Information Only

On Friday, October 28, 2022, a mediation was held between the parties in the lawsuit about the property leased by the mission. No agreement was reached.

Mission Peniel			
2023 Proposed Budget			
		2022 Budget	Proposed 2023 Budget
Income			
38 · Misión Peniel Income			
381 · Contributions			
	3811 · Contributions	267,602.00	230,000.00
Total 381 · Contributions		267,602.00	230,000.00
382 · Transfer from Reserves To Balance Budget			
		16,077.00	
39 · Trsf IN Funds			
	3906 · Trsf IN Cultivate Abundance Funds		590.91
	3913 · Trsf IN Music Ministry Funds		5,954.76
	3914 · Trsf IN Food Funds		20,000.00
Total 39 · Trsf IN Funds		-	26,545.67
Total Income		283,679.00	256,545.67
Expense			
81 · Human Resources Expense			
811 · Pastor			
	8111 · Salary	38,046.00	38,643.10
	8112 · Housing Allowance	26,376.00	29,000.00
	8113 · SECA Allowance	4,929.00	5,251.20
	8114 · Medical Supplement	1,000.00	1,000.00
	8115 · Board of Pensions Benefits	24,206.00	26,770.81
	8116 · Continuing Education	1,500.00	1,500.00
Total 811 · Pastor		96,057.00	102,165.11
812 · Mission Coordinator			
	8121 · Salary	41,600.00	15,600.00
	8122 · Payroll Taxes	3,182.00	1,193.40
	8123 · Mileage	500.00	500.00
Total 812 · Mission Coordinator		45,282.00	17,293.40
813 · Grant Admin/Data Entry			
	8131 · Contract Pay	20,800.00	-
Total 813 · Grant Admin/Data Entry		20,800.00	-
814 · Music Academy			
	8141 · Contract Pay - RF		7,200.00
Total 814 · Music Academy			7,200.00
815 · Communications Coordinator/Grant Administrator			
	8151 · Contract Pay		29,120.00
	8152 · Payroll Taxes		2,227.68
Total 815 · Communications Coordinator/Grant Administrator		-	31,347.68
816 · Pan de Vida Coordinator - RF			
	8161 · Salary		26,000.00
	8162 · Payroll Taxes		1,989.00

	Total 816 · Pan de Vida Coordinator	-	27,989.00
	817 · Pan de Vida Associate		
	8171 · Contract Pay		16,640.00
	8172 - Payroll Taxes		
	Total 817 · Pan de Vida Associate	-	16,640.00
	818 · Cleaning Service		
	8181 · Contract Pay		3,000.00
	Total 818 · Cleaning Service		3,000.00
	WORKER'S COMPENSATION EXPENSES		1,200.00
	Total 81 · Human Resources Expense	162,139.00	206,835.19
	82 · Building Expenses		
	821 · Rent	30,000.00	36,000.00
	822 · Electric	5,000.00	6,000.00
	823 · Propane	700.00	1,200.00
	824 · Water & Sewer	3,750.00	4,000.00
	825 · Telephone	1,800.00	2,400.00
	826 · Internet	1,500.00	1,200.00
	827 · Pest Control	940.00	1,000.00
	828 · Building Maintenance	6,000.00	15,000.00
	829 · Waste Management	3,000.00	3,000.00
	830 · Cleaning Services	2,600.00	
	831 · Cleaning Supplies	1,200.00	1,200.00
	832 · Furnishings and Equipment		5,000.00
	Total 82 · Building Expenses	56,490.00	76,000.00
	85 · Program Expenses		
	84 · Food Pantry		
	841 · Food Bank Purchases for Pantry	1,500.00	1,500.00
	842 · Food Purchases for Pantry	14,000.00	20,000.00
	843 · Food Services Supplies	3,500.00	3,500.00
	Total 84 · Food & Related Supplies Expense	19,000.00	25,000.00
	851 · Worship	1,800.00	800.00
	852 · Women's Ministries	750.00	750.00
	853 · Pan de Vida		
	8531 · Pan de Vida Coordinator	22,000.00	
	8532 · Pan de Vida Food Purchase - RF		20,000.00
	Total 853 · Pan de Vida	22,000.00	20,000.00
	854 · Cultivate Abundance Program - RF	1,500.00	2,500.00
	855 · Music Ministry Academy - Supplies - RF	1,000.00	500.00
	856 · Soccer School Academy	1,000.00	1,000.00
	Total 85 · Program Expenses	47,050.00	50,550.00
	86 · Other Expenses		
	861 · Vehicle Expenses - fuel/maintenance	10,000.00	15,000.00
	861b · Vehicle Insurance		7,800.00
	862 · Office Expenses	1,500.00	1,500.00
	863 · Miscellaneous Expense	1,750.00	1,750.00
	864 · eTapestry Database	1,500.00	-
	865 · Fund Raising & Communications	2,000.00	2,000.00
	Total 86 · Other Expenses	16,750.00	28,050.00
	Total Expense	282,429.00	361,435.19
	NET INCOME/LOSS	1,250.00	(104,889.52)
Footnote:			
In past years the budget has shown a draw on reserves to balance the budget. We have not shown a draw, but if donations do not meet the budget, a draw will be made.			

Unfinished Business – None
Business Adjournment - 2:11 p.m.
Closing Prayer by Moderator Linda Getzen

Worship Rev. Eddie Bellis **Communion**
Sermon Title: “Jiggle the Wire or The Real Fix”

Scriptures: John 4:4-42 **Offering** - (collected from this meeting went to Beth-EL in the amount of, **\$920.00**)

Lunch was served by wonderful volunteers from the host church.

2:15 p.m. Keynote Speaker – GA Commissioners – Questions and Answers
Rev. Rex Childs, Rev. Cori Rigney, RE Linda Getzen, RE Clint Belk, YAAD Carson Brown

Seeing and hearing a lot about what happened at this year's PC(USA) General Assembly? Wondering how it impacts you and your congregation? Today's keynote time will feature a conversation with Peace River Presbytery's commissioners and young adult advisory delegate to the 225th General Assembly this past summer. Hear about their experiences serving on committees, their views on some of the most meaningful items to emerge from this GA and understand how these things impact our local congregations here in Peace River.

Respectfully,



Alesia R. Sharpe, Recording Clerk

MINUTES REVIEWED AND APPROVED:



Rev. Dr. Randy Moody, Stated Clerk

SYNOD REPRESENTATIVE:

Ruling Elder, Linda Getzen, Moderator

Date: _____

APPENDIX (A)

Peace River Presbytery 2023 Proposed Budget Main Points

- Mission
 - Income
 - Mision Peniel's income from the churches of \$230K was based on the judgement of the management.
 - In addition, \$106K from Mision Peniel's reserves will be required to cover their planned expenses.
 - The partner income was primarily equal to 2022.
 - Special giving, except PDA, was budgeted to be approximately equal to this year.
 - PDA income for 2022 was inflated because giving for Ukraine, 2023 was budgeted at a normal level.
 - Expenses
 - Except for Mision Peniel we will give the greater of the budgeted amount or whatever is received to the various missions.
 - Mision Peniel's expense budget of \$336K was developed by organization and their board.
- Per Capita
 - Income: The \$107.9K Income budget was set at 75% of the requested amounts.
 - Expenses: The \$143.9 expense is budgeted to be equal to 100% of the requested amounts.
 - Net: The resulting Net is a deficit of (\$36K).
- Ministry Operations
 - Income
 - Income of \$325K from the churches was budgeted to be challenging but obtainable.
 - Based on good practice and our policy, \$80K of income was budgeted from our investments.
 - In addition, \$69K is budgeted to be withdrawn from investments in order to meet the planned expenses.
 - Expenses
 - All the team requested have been included in the expense budget \$474K.
 - This includes a 5% increase for all the staff.
 - The employed and contract staff costs are 78% of the total cost.
 - Net
 - By plan, Net is budgeted to be breakeven.
- Final Point

Funding the income needed to meet the Mision Peniel shortfall of \$106K, the Per Capita deficit of \$36K and the Ministry Operations income underage of \$69K will reduce our investments by \$211K which means the investments would be exhausted in 10-years.

Peace River Presbytery
2023 Budget Summary

	Actual	2022	2023	2023 B/(W)	%
	Jan – Aug 22	Budget	Budget	2022 Budget	Change
PRESBYTERY MINISTRY OPERATIONS					
INCOME					
Church Contributions	\$180,494	\$338,602	\$325,000		
Miscellaneous Income	(\$5,012)	\$14,450		Building Related	
Roofing Suit Settlement	\$88,850				
Sub-total General Income	\$264,332	\$353,052	\$325,000	(\$28,052)	
From Mision Peniel Reserves					
4% income from Investments			\$80,000		
Taken of Investments		\$180,782	\$68,667		
Total from Investments/Reserves	\$0	\$180,782	\$148,667	(\$32,115)	
TOTAL INCOME	\$264,332	\$533,834	\$473,667	(\$60,167)	
EXPENSE					
CCC Team	\$14,180	\$16,000	\$18,500		
Committee on Ministry	\$6,777	\$8,000	\$10,000		
Comm. Preparation for Ministry	\$3,336	\$1,600	\$1,600		
Congregational Vitality	\$554	\$11,150	\$8,150		
Steering Committee	\$38	\$200	\$200		
Sub-Total Committees	\$24,885	\$36,950	\$38,450		
Facilities	\$52,430	\$87,300	\$65,644	(\$21,656)	
Human Resources					
General Presbyter	\$103,375	\$156,315	\$169,134		
Office Administrator	\$48,152	\$66,931	\$69,933		
Financial Administrator	\$21,262	\$66,006	\$0		
Stated Clerk	\$25,596	\$41,692	\$43,566		
Vital Congregation Facilitator	\$7,170	\$29,030	\$44,209		
Staff Related Expense	\$1,675	\$6,000	\$2,750		
Sub-Total HR	\$207,230	\$365,974	\$329,592		
Contract Account	\$29,156	\$0	\$40,000		
Total Human Resources*	\$236,386	\$365,974	\$369,592	\$3,618	
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$313,701	\$490,224	\$473,686	(\$16,538)	
*More detail information is available from the Treasurer					

Peace River Presbytery
2023 Budget Summary

	Actual	2022	2023	2023 O/(U)	%
	Jan – Aug 22	Budget	Budget	2022 Budget	Change
MISSION					
INCOME					
Mision Peniel	\$226,946	\$267,602	\$230,000	From the Team	
Mision Peniel Reserve Draw		\$16,077	\$106,000	\$89,923	
Mision Peniel Total	\$226,946	\$283,679	\$336,000	\$52,321	18.4%
Partners	\$25,346	\$49,957	\$52,234		
Special Giving	\$118,255		\$71,900		
TOTAL	\$370,547	\$333,636	\$460,134	\$126,498	
EXPENSE					
Mision Peniel	\$226,926	\$283,679	\$336,000	(\$52,321)	-18.4%
Partners	\$27,806	\$49,957	\$52,234		
Special Giving	\$118,255		\$71,900		
TOTAL	\$372,987	\$333,636	\$460,134	\$126,498	
NET	(\$2,440)	\$0	\$0		
INCOME PER CAPITA					
INCOME					
General Assembly	\$44,247	\$83,436	\$93,614	Collecting 75%	
Synod	\$6,618	\$13,313	\$14,256	Collecting 75%	
TOTAL	\$50,865	\$96,749	\$107,870	\$11,121	11.5%
EXPENSE					
General Assembly	\$45,870	\$120,269	\$124,819	Paying 100%	
Synod	\$6,619	\$20,090	\$19,008	Paying 100%	
TOTAL	\$52,489	\$140,359	\$143,827		
NET	(\$1,624)	(\$43,610)	(\$35,957)	(\$7,653)	

Finance Team Meeting
September 28, 2022

The major Finance Team activities this period have included the following:

Financial Control:

We reviewed the Presbytery's and Mision Peniel's Financial results at each of our meetings. We also reviewed the performance of the Presbytery's investments. After the review, we voted to come our present investment allocations. Under Rev. Dr. Craig Goodrich's leadership, we have been working to increase support for the Presbytery from the churches.

Curry Roofing Suit:

Working with our attorney, we supported the Treasurer and the Presbytery staff pursuing the Presbytery's suit against Curry Roofing Company to pay for their poor work on installing a new roof on the Presbytery's office building. This was brought to a successful conclusion through the hard work of Fred Chamberlain and Alesia Sharpe. We reached a settlement of \$88,500. After legal fees of \$45,000 the Presbytery had net recovery of \$43,500.

Lehigh Acres Property Sale:

Following a request from Lehigh Acres Presbyterian Church to sell part their land, Charmaine Ponkratz worked with the church leadership to help them understand their options. Lehigh Acres PC decided to pursue a different course of action.

Mision Peniel Building:

The Finance Committee continued to monitor the efforts of Mision Peniel to purchase their building.

St. Paul's PC Land Sale Request:

We provided guidance to St. Paul's Presbyterian Church regarding the proposed sale of their stand-alone one-acre lot.

Funds Management:

In order to efficiently manage our funds, we distributed selected balances in the following small balance restricted funds:

- Theological Education Fund (\$500) – transferred to 2661 Installation Offering – consistent purpose.
- PRP Website (\$1,725) and GPNC Recruitment (\$2,782) balances – transferred to Other Income – project completed.
- Clergy Conference (\$65) – transferred to Other Income – project no longer active.
- Planning Calendars (-\$1,320), Retreats (-\$504), Workshops/Seminars (-\$173) – reduction of other income - deficit from prior activities.
- Souperbowl (\$3,239) – distribute to Mision Peniel and First Port Charlotte (50/50) – First Port Charlotte was selected to share in this distribution because PRP is a tenant on their campus, and they have a large, effective food bank program.
- Hurricane Fund (\$1,673) – distribute to FLAPDAN in 2023 to assist in covering their 10% increased funding request for 2023.

Memorial Funds:

In order to have the following accounts provide the benefit intended by the donor, we will distribute income from Memorial Funds as shown below:

- Hughey (\$3,283.60) – to Cedarkirk – to fulfill 2022 pledge.
- Arnall (\$3,505.29) – equally to covenant partners: Beth-El, Cedarkirk, Mission Workers, Mision Peniel and FLAPDAN – to fulfill 2022 pledges.
- Evans (\$204.97) – to Presbyterian Homes in ODD years.
- Young (\$8,002.65) – equally to covenant partners: Beth-El, Cedarkirk, Mision Peniel, FLAPDAN – to fulfill 2022 pledge.
- Morris (\$1,898.91) - to Presbytery's church development account #2635.
- Murphy (\$20,684.25) – Equally across 4 years for purpose of Christian education and women's conferences; No additional income coming into this account. Cash Management: In order to fund the activities noted below, we made the following distributions from the appropriate funds:
 - \$19,750 distributed for Blessing Grant awards, has been withdrawn from the New Covenant – Blessing Grant investment account.
 - \$36,026 to cover Mision Peniel cash flow needs have been withdrawn from Mision Peniel reserves from the PCUSA Covenant Funds – Other.
 - We established a policy to withdraw funds from the appropriate investment accounts within 30 days when the grants or expenditures occur.

APPENDIX (B)

Peace River Presbytery Communication, Connection, and Community Team Report November 12, 2022, Stated Meeting

No action items.

In 2019, a team was charged with restructuring the presbytery's committees and teams' model to create more synergy, synthesize operations, and encourage greater opportunity and effectivity. As a result of that project, the CCC Team was born. We succeeded the former Planning Team, and inherited the prior work of individuals, task forces, and committees that have sought to revitalize and encourage communication between people, groups, and churches within Peace River. Our charge has included:

- 1) facilitating the presbytery's role as a learning community,
- 2) working to unite our presbytery body through stated meetings designed to worship, celebrate, learn, and share,
- 3) encouraging and fostering the development of meaningful connections between congregations, sessions, ruling elders, teaching elders, and presbytery entities, and
- 4) developing a new communication strategy for the presbytery.

Now, three years later, as our first group of members prepares to rotate off, we thought we might take a look in the rearview mirror as to what has happened over the past three years, as a wild yet fruitful three years it has been.

Stated meetings of presbytery looked a lot different than we expected. Following a conversation with Tod Bolsinger in February 2020, COVID-19 forced us online, and forced us to think differently about planning keynote times at these meetings. While many outside speakers were unavailable, the pandemic allowed us to tap into the incredibly valuable resources of our own pastors and elders. We learned from Larry Ousley on how to have difficult conversations as a body, heard about stewardship from First Bonita's Allen Walworth, met in breakout groups more than once, and, upon our return in person, got to meet Pastor Carlos Ham, a leader in Matanzas Presbytery in Cuba. Zoom worship was also an interesting experiment that allowed a unique combination of individual and corporate worship. We give thanks to every pastor and elder who participated in helping make these online services successful.

Cedarkirk

Last year, we were inspired to begin planning a retreat to Cedarkirk for all in our presbytery to encounter God and one another. This November 2021 gathering was the first time that many had seen each other in nearly two years. The sixty or so of us who gathered were blessed by the time. The "second annual" Cedarkirk retreat, originally scheduled to take place this weekend, has been postponed. We are hopeful a new date in 2023 can be found. We are excited for this time of worship, fellowship, learning, and, most of all, retreat and connection with our creator

Website and Logo

Thanks to a partnership with church website group Worship Times, our website, peacriverpresbytery.org, has been redesigned and revamped in the past year. While it is still a work in progress, we give thanks for the new design. We invite you to send suggestions to the team or presbytery staff on ways the website can be more accessible to you. Worship Times also designed a new presbytery logo, which you can view on the cover of this meeting packet and on the website. The design draws upon our old logo while also modernizing the approach; as we look to the cross in the clearing, we are reminded of our purpose as a presbytery.

New presbytery office

At the beginning of this year, the presbytery staff moved to a new office space on the campus of First Port Charlotte. The team was asked to procure new signs to help identify the new location. Thanks to Buffalo Graffix, a Port Charlotte company, the presbytery office can be easily identified and navigated.

New banners

This year, the team commissioned new banners for the presbytery moderator and - in collaboration with PRP's Presbyterian Women - for the PW. Jef Farlow of Covenant Presbyterian has brilliantly and beautifully incorporated the new logo into these new banners, and we are excited to dedicate and commission the presbytery banner at this stated meeting.

Videos

As part of our ongoing commitment to modern ministry in a multimedia world, the team commissioned two videos to be produced highlighting the work, mission, and heart of our presbytery. We give endless thanks to Matt Liddell and Sarah Soboleski from Church of the Palms for creating these videos and bringing the team's vision to life. We are also thankful to all who participated in the filming sessions for these videos. Both of these videos will be published sometime in the new year, and will be used for marketing, recruitment, information sharing, and so much more. The vision for these videos was drawn from Romans 12:5, "so it is with Christ's body. We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other".

Cuba Partnership

This year, the team assumed responsibility for the Cuba Partnership Task Force and is currently working with that group to determine appropriate alterations to our Cuba partnership agreement, which is set to expire in 2023. It is our hope to review the agreement and prayerfully look toward the possibility of renewal, which will be subject to presbytery approval.

Curious Commissioners

It is our priority to make information about presbytery and its processes as accessible as possible. We invite all attending this meeting, especially first-time commissioners, to read the "For Curious Commissioners" it can be found on the Presbytery's website, <https://peacerverpresbytery.org/stated-called-meetings/> and also available with each presbytery meeting packet, which was created by the team to help promote this purpose. As we look toward the future, we see an emphasis on community and connection. We have understood these words a lot differently during pandemic life. However, as we move back into an in-person world, we feel God inviting us to step into new and different ways to strengthen our relationships with one another and with God. As it is with us. We are grateful for the friendships that have been formed throughout our three years working together on this team. We give thanks for each CCC Team member who has served throughout this unique time, as we have sought to understand and shape our team's purpose and goals. As we prepare to conclude our term as co-moderators, we are thanking God for the incredible opportunity to serve the presbytery in this way, and once again invite anyone interested in communication, connection, community, and creativity to contact the team with ideas and interest.

Very respectfully submitted,

Carson Brown & Rev. Rob Marrow

Co-Moderators, Communication, Connection, and Community Team

APPENDIX (C)

Stated Meeting, Saturday, November 12, 2022

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S REPORT

Good morning, I am Sandy Wharton and serving as Peace River Presbyterian Women Moderator. It is truly a joy to be with you to present a report from our Peace River Presbyterian Women. Thank you, Linda, for inviting me to share our work and activities.

First, **WHO ARE WE? WE ARE PW STRONG!**

Every woman who is a member of a PC(USA) church is a Presbyterian Woman. SO, would ALL Presbyterian Women please stand up! Look around at these ladies and I want you to think about what they do to support your church within PRP. (Ladies, you may sit down).

So, I'd like to start ... **With a bit of history** – Presbyterian Women organized more than 200 years ago when women had no role outside the home.

Over the years, we have learned that women are gifted with strength that they use in remarkable ways AND the Spirit has been calling women to leadership for centuries.

We have been tasked to carry out God's vital work AND we have delivered. Women have fought injustice, persevered through incredible hardships, fueled by faith that God's plan is righteous and good.

We have studied the many incredible women of the Bible, who serve as examples of how we can all tap into our own unique strengths and show up for those who need us most.

We have learned from the inspiring tales of the powerful women who came before us, how they shaped their worlds and have inspired us to do the same.

Specific to **Peace River Presbyterian Women** – we are structured according to our own constitution and bylaws. We are a “connectional” organization – Church, Presbytery, Synod and PC(USA). Our goal is to carry out our mission in partnership with Peace River Presbytery.

The Purpose of Presbyterian Women

Forgiven and freed by God in Jesus Christ, empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves

- ▶ To nurture our faith through Prayer and Bible study;
- ▶ To support the mission of the church worldwide;
- ▶ To work for justice and peace; and
- ▶ To build an inclusive, caring community of women that strengthens the Presbyterian Church (USA) and witnesses to the promise of God's kingdom.

In Feb. 2021, I was installed as Moderator of Peace River Presbyterian Women (via zoom, of course). That morning it hit me, **WHAT WAS I THINKING?** Our PW were scattered – Covid almost put a stop to things. No one wanted to accept a leadership position. Then I realized, every day God gives us opportunities and sometimes, challenges! He has a plan - but participating in God's plan involves us becoming daring disciples. God is asking each of us to accept our own individual faith challenges ... AND to make a commitment. So, there I was ... faced with this opportunity/challenge.

Before that meeting, I was reminded of a wonderful “red haired” lady that I first met in the mid 1970's in my church right here at Cypress Lake. Ellen Williams was a feisty little lady and a faithful servant of our Lord. She was PW Moderator of CLPC from 1975-1978 and in 1983, she was our Peace River PW Moderator. I was soaking up everything I could from Ellen to learn about our PW. She taught me so much – actually, she “TOUCHED ME” and she will always have a special place in my heart. So, I asked our PW at that Annual Gathering via zoom, to *think of that special lady in their church that has touched them and to “REACH OUT AND TOUCH ONE OTHER WOMAN”* in their congregation, to share Christ's love and befriend someone. **TO GO FORTH WITHOUT FEAR AND TRUST IN THE LORD.**

Then, I began a journey of reaching out to ladies in our PRP churches. My intent was to get to know our Presbyterian women, inquire how we could help them and let them know we care about them. What an amazing experience – I was warmly welcomed and learned that our ladies are resilient, they are passionate in their mission work; are very generous and giving; and work with a grateful heart! AND, just as I suspected, there are many faithful and talented PW in every church I visited – ladies who are leaders working as a team “with the Lord” in their home, church and community. They gave me hope and I was truly inspired.

This gave our Coordinating Team the information to identify how we needed to move forward. We developed three initiatives: 1) Leadership development; 2) Communication development; and 3) Church PW development. Since 2021, we have filled many open leadership positions with talented PW.

- A Mission Chair was appointed to serve as a liaison with our missions and Coordinating Team.
 - Presbyterian Women give to missions in their church and community – they also go the extra mile and give to PW missions in PRP, and worldwide to support mission work through our Birthday Offering; Thank Offering and Least Coin offering.
 - ◇ PW Birthday Offering – celebrated 100 years of Birthday Offering. In 1922, each PW gave a penny for each year of her life as a “birthday gift.” A century later, PW have contributed more than \$37 million to help improve lives at home and around the world.
 - ◇ PW Thank Offering - \$27 million has been granted to more than 1,600 different projects in the United States and around the world. 24 Thank Offering applications were submitted in 2022 and 10 projects selected for funding. Eight of the projects serve people in the United States and two are international. 40 percent are health related.
 - ◇ PW Least Coin Offering - Fellowship of the Least Coin is a global, ecumenical prayer movement that was begun in 1956. FLC’s international committee awards grants from these “least coins,” funding special projects throughout the world.
 - ◇ The good news is PW is still the largest single donor to PC(USA) missions. The even better news is that our PW SOSA is still the number one donor to the Birthday Offering and among the top five givers to Thank Offering.
- PRP PW supports eight (8) other missions: Columbia Friendship; Duvall Home, Mission Haven, Thornwell Home; Mision Peniel, Cedarkirk, Beth-El Farmworkers, and Immokalee Fair Housing Alliance. Mission Haven is located adjacent to Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, GA. It provides housing, hospitality, and clothing to missionaries returning from the mission field all over the world. MH celebrated 70 years of service last year. This is owned and supported by Presbyterian Women in 7 southeastern states (2 synods – Synod of South Atlantic, 16 Presbyteries, and Living Waters, 11 Presbyteries).
- A few of our activities: In Oct. 2021, we held an Autumn Retreat “Catching a Second Wind” - asking the Holy Spirit to lead us forward; to reset our sails, to refresh our vision; to rejuvenate spiritually; and to renew relationships - holding five (5) “round robin” small group discussions – which were well-received and gave time to learn, network and share ideas by 50+ ladies. In addition, we are grateful to Janice Croley for her presentation, “You Can’t Control the Wind, but You Can Adjust Your Sails.” Excellent message during our pandemic time. She touched the hearts of every person at the retreat.
- Two one-day Spring Retreats (2021 & 2022) were held at Day Springs Conference Center near Ellenton with approximately 30 ladies in attendance each year. Themes: “Walking with Jesus” and “Hearts and Hands for Jesus.”
- Feb. 2022 - Annual Gathering was held at Covenant PC – theme: “In the Shadow of Your Wings.” We joined forces to plan this Gathering with PW from Covenant, CLPC and Faith PC. Rev. Courtney Ducharme led our worship. Following our business meeting, twenty-two (22) ladies from CLPC presented a “Biblical Women’s Fashion Show” with Amanda Johnson singing “Mary, Did You Know.” **We are honored each year to welcome our General Presbyter, Melana, to our Gatherings.**
- Since Feb. 2021, we’ve had many document updates:
 - ◇ PRP PW Bylaws were revised
 - ◇ Policies & Procedures were created
 - ◇ Guidelines & timelines were written for all PW events.
 - ◇ Guidelines were written for our Margaret Day Memorial Fund and for our Scholarship Fund for those entering a church vocation.
 - √ **MDMF – financial support for those PW to attend educational and spiritual enrichment opportunities**
 - √ **Scholarship Fund – financial support for those entering a church vocation**
 - ◇ Forms were developed to support our work
- A very special thanks to Melana for uploading our PW information onto PRP website. Check it out – under Committees and Teams, scroll down to Presbyterian Women. This includes all of the document updates that I previously mentioned plus our PW newsletters, “The Messenger.”
- A Finance Committee was appointed to support our Treasurer – preparing our budget, creating Quarterly Financial Reports to our Coordinating Team and a year-end financial report to our Presbyterian Women at our Annual Gatherings.

- Jef Farlow was commissioned to design a new Peace River PW banner.
- Upcoming events:
 - ◆ Oct. 21-23, 2022 – SOSA Triennial Gathering at Epworth on St. Simon’s Island, GA. Theme: “Plug in and Recharge.” Approximately 30 ladies will attend from Peace River PW.
 - ◆ Feb. 4, 2023 – PRP PW Annual Gathering
 - ◆ Mar. 20, 2023 – PRP PW Spring Retreat – Siesta Key Chapel

As Presbyterian Women continue to grow, we cultivate loving relationships and life changing ministries in our church and throughout the world. Cultivating PW means putting our hands and hearts to work for others. In addition to all our PW work, our ladies serve multiple functions in our churches ... some are ordained pastors, elders or deacons. Others serve on church committees, sing in the choir, teach Bible studies, volunteer in the church office, etc.

Whether we are developing relationships with missions, building healthy communities through our offerings, honoring faithful servants with our PW Honorary Life Memberships, or taking time for Bible study, service and fellowship, we each choose to follow in Jesus’ footsteps.

Thank you for supporting the Presbyterian Women in your church and thank you for allowing me to share this message today.

Sandra L. Wharton, PW Moderator
Peace River Presbytery

APPENDIX (D)

Tidbits from the Treasurer November 12, 2022 – via ZOOM

Category	YTD Actual August	YTD Budget August	Over/(Under) Budget
MISSION			
Revenue	\$370,527	\$211,706	\$158,821
Expense	\$372,987	\$222,424	\$150,563
NET	(\$2,460)	(\$10,718)	\$8,258
PER CAPITA			
Revenue	\$ 50,865	\$ 64,499	(\$13,634)
Expense	\$ 52,489	\$ 93,573	(\$41,084)
NET	(\$1,624)	(\$29,074)	\$27,450
PRESBYTERY OPERATIONS			
Revenue	\$264,352	\$366,607	(\$102,255)
Expense	\$313,699	\$336,493	(\$22,794)
NET	(\$49,347)	\$ 30,114	(\$79,461)

Financially, the Presbytery is having a very challenging year. From the Statement of Financial Activities:

1. Mision Peniel has an YTD deficit of \$23K.
2. Per Capita, if distributed up-stream according to budget, would have forwarded \$93,573 instead of \$52,489, generating a deficit.
3. PRP Ministry Operations has a YTD deficit of \$49K, primarily because of \$102K shortfall in church giving. The legal (roof) settlement recovered \$89K, offset by legal expenses in both 2021 and 2022. Without this one-time revenue the deficit would have been \$122K
4. There was a \$70,701 pass through to PDA substantially reflecting designated giving from the churches for Ukraine.
5. An interesting view of consolidated expenses: \$739,175 of which \$372,987 (50%) is directed to mission partners.
6. From the Summary of Restricted Accounts report – sub-accounts now align with the Presbytery’s cash and two investment account positions. And the balances have been adjusted for the mark-to-market. One of those restricted accounts was a \$100,000 donation, made by a church, distributed in a grant program to churches making capital improvements.
7. From the Church Giving report: 4 churches with no giving YTD. Report has been expanded to reflect all church giving, with total giving over a half million dollars. Year end 2021 church member information is presented; only 6 churches logged growth from year end 2020.

APPENDIX (E)

Committee on Preparation for Ministry Report November 12, 2022

CURRENTLY UNDER CARE

Inquirers: John Frazee, Braden River Presbyterian Church, Bradenton
Nicole Jiskoot, First Presbyterian Church, Arcadia

Candidates: Genevieve Beauchamp, Church of the Palms, Sarasota
Amy Cerniglia, Peace Presbyterian Church, Lakewood Ranch
Sarah Soboleski, Church of the Palms, Sarasota
Debra Graves, Faith Presbyterian, Cape Coral
Susan Wills, First Presbyterian Church, Sarasota

CRE: Bill Kraft, Community Presbyterian Church, Englewood

Information Only

1. Genevieve Beauchamp, Church of the Palms, Sarasota, met with the Committee on Preparation for Ministry in September and was Certified Ready to receive a call.
2. Sarah Soboleski, Church of the Palms, Sarasota, met with the Committee on Preparation for Ministry in Sept. and was Certified Ready to receive a call.

NOTE:

G-2.0604 Purpose of Candidacy

The purpose of the candidacy phase is to provide for the full preparation of persons to serve the church as ministers of the Word and Sacrament. This shall be accomplished through the presbytery's support, guidance, and evaluation of a candidate's fitness and readiness for a call to ministry requiring ordination.

G-2.0103 Call to Ordered Ministry

The call to ordered ministry in the Church is the act of the triune God. This call is evidenced by the movement of the Holy Spirit in the individual conscience, the approval of a community of God's people, and the concurring judgment of a council of the Church.

APPENDIX (F)

225th General Assembly A Reflection and Report Carson Brown, Young Adult Advisory Delegate

Words cannot express just how appreciative I am to have had the opportunity to attend this General Assembly as a YAAD. I am so grateful to the HR Team for nominating me to attend, and to the presbytery for electing me. I invite you to stick around for the Nov. 12 stated meeting keynote to hear specifics on certain items of business, and I would be more than happy to engage personally with anyone who would like to discuss them further. Following the example of my good friend Wayne Largent, a 2018 GA commissioner from PRP, I kept a daily blog of my experiences that is published on the presbytery website. For an inside look into my experience (with pictures!), I invite you to check it out. Though you may not be able to tell from the tone of this report, my experience was wonderful, and I consider it a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that everyone should seize if given the chance. It is indeed my care for this denomination and the value I place on the assembly that leads me to report on it with some “tough love”. In the spirit of the theme of this GA, I carry away both “hope and lament”. Lament comes for a few reasons.

Throughout the assembly, we continued to hear different iterations of this statement - what our denomination is losing in numbers, we are gaining in spiritual vitality. This was continually repeated as though it excused our inaction to help rescue churches from the very real losses they are experiencing. The General Assembly continues to seem either unwilling or unable to even acknowledge that these losses present a serious problem, let alone offer churches and mid-councils support to help address them. This, however, is a symptom of a greater truth. Unfortunately, this General Assembly did very little that will directly benefit and support individual churches. The assembly dealt in the ethereal, as though it operated on some kind of cloud, elevated and insulated from the concerns of the local congregations. Any church in trouble - financially, organizationally, or Spiritually - seeking to be thrown a life preserver by this GA, will need to wait for the next one.

As for the business that was conducted, the management of the docket was of great interest to me. There seemed to be some items that garnered great “debate” (really just opportunities to pontificate on one side of the issue), while other items received - scarily given their severity - comically minimal attention. It was as though real and genuine discussion on items that split the assembly was less important than reinforcing what the majority already believed (and perhaps warning away potential dissenters) on items - usually of a political nature - that already attracted overwhelming support. The motions on the format for the next GA and approving a committee to write a new confession (which I consider to be the single most important item considered by this assembly) received mere minutes of debate. As to those that *were* discussed at length and approved, I fear that several propped up a rhetoric that will isolate many churches who disagree with them. The mentality on these items seemed to be “all or nothing”, “you’re either with us or against us”, with no room for the moderate middle that has historically been such a key part of our denomination and remains so in many churches. In my committee, some tried to warn that the language of a particular overture would forbid it from ever being accepted by many moderate congregations who might otherwise embrace it if the language were more inclusive and invitational rather than demanding and decidedly bold, as was the case with several overtures and items. This guidance was ignored.

Finally, I lament that free and well-meaning debate often was seldom present. The essence of being Presbyterian means being able and willing to disagree and use those disagreements to build up respect for one another. Nevertheless, there seemed to be a widespread unwillingness of commissioners to offer any comments that may have been taken the wrong way. Given just how anodyne it was, one could easily conclude that the General Assembly is a body that does not cherish or recognize the beauty of diversity of thought. It does not seem to be a body interested in hearing diverse viewpoints and opinions and suggestions unless they all lead toward one seemingly preordained and predetermined goal. Dissenting opinions are labeled “offensive”, and this label is used to shut down healthy debate at once. I was appalled at how some dissenters were mocked and ridiculed by commissioners and spectators on social media for simply possessing a different view.

The beautiful tapestry of our denomination and the assembly is woven by different cultures, political ideologies, and theological bents. This is something that should be celebrated, not viewed as an evil burden. More importantly, a willingness to say things that may be controversial or offensive to popular sentiment is a cornerstone of our faith. At least, if you count the teachings and acts of Jesus.

Despite these observations, as you might read in my blog, I leave this Assembly with hope. I am hopeful for the many seminarians and young people who care to serve this denomination, for the dedicated PC(USA) staff and the complexity of our international organization, the depth of which I did not understand until I was in person in Louisville, and for the desire for change that was shown through votes like FIN-10, which seeks to reorganize the national agencies for better cost-effectivity and synergy in mission and vision. I am hopeful because of how many times the co-moderators paused and invited us to prayer before votes. I am hopeful that our denomination still welcomes the invitation of the Holy Spirit to move within us and grant us a vision for our future. I do hope, too, that we will tune out that which does not matter so we might more fully concentrate on that vision, that we might silence the noise of each of our individual voices so that we may hear God's clearly.

During the FIN-10 debate, PRP commissioner Cori Rigney assisted the YAADs by moving our request to add two young adults to the commission tasked with the work. Collaborating with her on this was a highlight of the assembly for me. I also formed many friendships with the other YAADs that I maintain today and am better because of them.

While we each have different ways of living it out, I believe that everyone who participated in this assembly in any way passionately shares the desire and goal that Jesus Christ might be glorified through all we say and do. I rejoice that this reality was consistently reaffirmed throughout the assembly, and I hope this has also been a takeaway for commissioners on every side of the political and theological spectrum. God continues to bless the PC(USA) in many unique and wonderful ways, and I am hopeful for how these blessings will continue to come to life in our collective and individual ministry.

Thank you again for the opportunity and privilege to attend this General Assembly as your Young Adult Advisory Delegate. It has been the honor of a lifetime. I give thanks to God for safe travels, the wonders of technology, and the contract with our Korean interpreters, which forced the assembly to adjourn each night at 11:45 PM.

Highlights and full written and video records of the assembly can be found via a visit to PC-Biz.org.