

**MINUTES  
FROM  
THE  
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING  
OF  
PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY**

**Tuesday  
September 7, 2021**

**Via Zoom**

## CALL TO ORDER

**The Special Called Meeting of Peace River Presbytery was held on Tuesday, September 7, 2021, Via ZOOM.**

The Zoom window was opened at 2:30 p.m. to give folks plenty of time to get logged in.

### **CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order and opened with prayer by Moderator, Rev. Rex Childs, at 3:00 p.m.

### **QUORUM:**

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

### **WELCOME:**

A welcome was given by Moderator Rex Childs.

### **DOCKET:**

It was moved by the Stated Clerk and seconded that the Docket of the Special Called Meeting, Tuesday, September 7, 2021, be approved. MOTION CARRIED, and the meeting came to order at 3:05 p.m.

---

## INDEX

(pages)

1. Cover
2. Call to Order and Index Page
- 3, 4, 5. Attendance Pages
6. Docket – Approved
7. Stated Clerk’s Report – Approved
8. Hope United Church Report – Approved
8. Adjournment with Closing Prayer – 3:15 p.m.
8. Signature Page

### Appendix (s)

9. Appendix (A) – Letter of Request for Meeting
- 10, 11. Appendix (B) – Rational for Name Change

MINISTERS

Attendance

July 22, 2021, Special Called Meeting

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

Andrews, Devon	Deibert, Elizabeth	Morris, Kevin	Smith, RC
Bellis, Eddie	Dunn, Edward	Peter, Lynne	Teng, Bill
Brandt, Ed	Ferreira, Silvana	Purchase, Tom	Torrence, Margaret
Browne, Hmingi	Haas, Laurie	Remaley, TJ	Wildhack, Holly
Browne, Will	Lawson, Winston	Rogers, Brad	Wilson, Carolyn
Casto-Waters, Andy	Lee, Sung	Romig, Chris	Wismer, Bruce
Childs, Rex	Lowe, Grant	Scruggs, Melana	
Cottrell, Clint	Mansperger, Mike	Sitterley, Bill	
Crego, Terri Jo	Moody, Randy	Smalt, Ruth	

Ministers Present: 33

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

Melanie Kim-Hamill	Fred Schulz	Brandi Casto-Waters
Chuck Wiggins	Doug Pratt	Ron Miller
Kathi Wiggins	Jaci Smith Patman	Jim Berger

Ministers Excused: 9

The following members of presbytery were **ABSENT**: N/A

Ruling Elder Commissioners  
Attendance – September 7, 2021, Special Called Meeting

<u>Church</u>	<u>#</u>		<u>Present</u>		<u>Church</u>	<u>#</u>		<u>Present</u>
<b><u>Arcadia</u></b>	2	1.	None		<b><u>Naples continued</u></b>			
First		2.	None		Moorings	3	45.	None
							46.	None
<b><u>Bonita Springs</u></b>							47.	None
First	4	3.	Dave Nichols		Vanderbilt	3	48.	Timothy Hall
		4.	Tom Grafton				49.	Molly Godley
		5.	Jonathan Mustian				50.	-----
		6.	Jeff Owens		<b><u>North Port</u></b>			
<b><u>Bradenton</u></b>					St. Paul's	2	51.	None
Braden River	2	7.	Lois McGill				52.	None
		8.	-----		<b><u>Palmetto</u></b>			
First, Bradenton	2	9.	None		Palmetto	2	53.	None
		10.	None				54.	None
Kirkwood	2	11.	Jayne Cantwell		<b><u>Port Charlotte</u></b>			
		12.	-----		First	2	55.	None
Palma Sola	2	13.	Roy Williams				56.	None
		14.	-----		Wintergarden	2	57.	Lynn Webster (phone)
Westminster	2	15.	Denise Landers				58.	-----
		16.	-----		<b><u>Punta Gorda</u></b>			
Oak Pointe Church	2	17.	None		Burnt Store	2	59.	None
		18.	None				60.	None
<b><u>Cape Coral</u></b>								
Faith	4	19.	Dorcy Hopko		<b><u>Sarasota</u></b>			
		20.	Paul Christianson		Bee Ridge	2	61.	None
		21.	Rich Rolfe				62.	None
		22.	Ron Kemper		Church of the Palms	4	63.	None
<b><u>Englewood</u></b>							64.	None
Community	2	23.	Bill Kraft				65.	None
		24.	Jim O'Harrow				66.	None
<b><u>Fort Myers</u></b>					First	3	67.	None
Buckingham	2	25.	Margaret Elyard				68.	None
		26.	Robert Peterman				69.	None
Covenant	2	27.	Jeff Farlow		Northminster	2	70.	Valerie Wilde
		28.	Deborah Maurer				71.	Sally Kirby
Cypress Lake	2	29.	Carson Brown		Pine Shores	2	72.	None
		30.	Gordon Coffman				73.	None
Hope United	2	31.	Garth Errington		PC of the Covenant	2	74.	Judy Bremer
		32.	Dale Thompson				75.	-----
Holy Trinity	2	33.	Betty Robertson		Siesta Key Chapel	2	76.	None
		34.	Scotty Robertson				77.	None
<b><u>Ft. Myers Beach</u></b>								
Chapel by the Sea	2	35.	None		<b><u>Lakewood Ranch</u></b>			
		36.	None		Peace	2	78.	Susan Hyde
<b><u>Lehigh Acres</u></b>							79.	Sally Schoeffel
First	2	37.	None					
		38.	None		<b><u>Venice</u></b>			
<b><u>Longboat Key</u></b>					Trinity	2	80.	None
Christ Church	2	39.	Noel Ebrahim				81.	None
		40.	-----		Venice	3	82.	None
<b><u>Naples</u></b>							83.	None
First	3	41.	Carleton Cleveland				84.	None
		42.	-----					
Lely	2	43.	Bonnie Hartley					
		44.	-----					

**Elder Commissioners: 34**

Other Attendance  
June 3, 2021, Special Called Meeting

Voting Committee and/or Team Members

1. Beverly Grady, COM
-----------------------

Voting Steering Committee Members: 1

Corresponding Members:

None
------

Corresponding Members: 0

Commissioned Ruling Elders:

None
------

Commissioned Ruling Elders: 0

Certified Christian Educators:

None
------

Certified Christian Educators: 0

Visitors

Wayne Largent	Community PC, Englewood
Lori Doyal	PRP Staff
Alesia Sharpe	PRP Staff / Recording Secretary

Visitors: 3

Ministers Present: 33    Commissioners Present: 34    Other Voting Members Present: 1    Total Voting Present: 68

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

TOTAL PRESENT: 71

- |   |    |  |     |
|---|----|--|-----|
| ● Number of Churches with NO Elder representation:      | 17 | ● Number of Churches with NO representation: | 7   |
| ● Number of Churches with partial Elder representation: | 11 | ● Number of Ministers asking to be excused:  | 9   |
| ● Number of Churches with NO Clergy representation:     | 14 | ● Number of Ministers absent:                | N/A |

PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY  
*SPECIAL CALLED ZOOM MEETING*

DOCKET

Tuesday, September 7, 2021

**APPROVED**

2:30 p.m. Zoom is opened for Pre-Registered Folks

3:00 p.m. Call to Order and Opening Prayer ..... Moderator, Rex Childs

Stated Clerk Report ..... Rev. Dr. Randy Moody

Report from Hope United Church ..... ~~Jane Woolbert~~ **Rev. Kevin Morris**

Motion to Adjourn:

**3:15 p.m.** Adjournment with closing Prayer by Moderator Rex Childs

**Stated Clerk's Report**

Rev. Dr. Randy Moody

- 1. Declaration of Quorum.
- 2. Approval of our Docket for today's meeting. **APPROVED**
- 3. Enrollment of Corresponding Members. None
- 4. Members of Presbytery who have asked to be EXCUSED for ALL or PART of this Meeting.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Presbyterian Church</b>	<b>All or Part of this Meeting</b>
Melanie Kim Hamill	Member-at-Large	All
Chuck Wiggins	First, Port Charlotte	All
Kathi Wiggins	HR	All
Fred Schulz	HR	All
Doug Pratt	First, Bonita Springs	All
Jaci Smith Patman	Moorings, Naples	All
<b>Brandi Casto-Waters</b>	<b>Faith, Cape Coral</b>	<b>All</b>
<b>Ron Miller</b>	<b>HR</b>	<b>All</b>
<b>Jim Berger</b>	<b>Chapel by the Sea</b>	<b>All</b>

**APPROVED**

**5. Motion:**

Authorize the Stated Clerk and the Moderator of the Presbytery to review and approve the minutes, from this meeting. **APPROVED**

Peace River Presbytery  
Special Called Zoom Meeting  
Tuesday, September 7, 2021  
Hope United Church, PCUSA  
9250 Corkscrew Road, Suite 8  
Esteros, Florida 33928

**For Presbytery's Approval:**

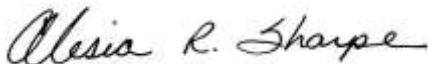
Hope United Church, by congregational vote, requests permission of the Presbytery to change the name of the church from Hope United Church to **“Esteros Community Church, PCUSA”**.

- ▶ **Motion** made by Kevin Morris that Peace River Presbytery approve the request of Hope United Church PCUSA to change its name to Esteros Community Church PCUSA.

<b><u>APPROVED</u></b>	
<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
42	0

**3:15 p.m. Adjournment with closing prayer by Moderator Rex Childs.**

Respectfully,



\_\_\_\_\_  
Alesia R. Sharpe, Recording Clerk

**MINUTES REVIEWED AND APPROVED:**



\_\_\_\_\_  
Rev. Dr. Randy Moody, Stated Clerk



\_\_\_\_\_  
Rev. Rex Childs, Moderator

**SYNOD REPRESENTATIVE:**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



## APPENDIX (A)



Peace River Presbytery  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)  
5600 PEACE RIVER ROAD NORTH PORT, FLORIDA 34287

---

Email Sent August 24, 2021

To: Members of Presbytery  
Clerks of Session

From: Rex Childs  
Peace River Presbytery Moderator

Re: Special Called Zoom Meeting of Presbytery

Dear Members of Peace River Presbytery:

I hereby Call a **Zoom Special Meeting of Peace River Presbytery**, as requested, to be held on **Tuesday, September 7, 2021, beginning at 3:00 p.m.** Please put this on your calendars.

Please watch your email closely for additional information to join this Electronic “Zoom” Called Meeting, registration requirements and packet of information.

Thank you!

*Rex Childs*  
Moderator  
Peace River Presbytery

Mr. Moderator,

I received a request for a Special Presbytery Meeting **for the purpose of approving a name change of Hope United Church (PCUSA) to Estero Community Church PCUSA.**

The call for the meeting is from two ruling elders from different congregations and two teaching elders:

- Ruling Elder Jane Woolbert, Hope United
- Ruling Elder Stephen Fisher, Chapel by the Sea
- Teaching Elder Kevin Morris
- Teaching Elder Jim Berger

The call is in order according to Standing Rule 4.3

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Randy Moody".

The Reverend Dr. Randy Moody, Stated Clerk

## APPENDIX (B)

### Rationale for changing the name to *Estero Community Church PCUSA*

*Estero* – This is where we now reside. The church is in the heart of Estero. Most of the members are Estero residents.

*Community* – We are in the *Village of Estero*. A synonym for “village” is “community”, alluding to a more intimate environment. There are over 35 gated communities in Estero. The area is full of people who choose to live in and be part of smaller communities within a community. Those various communities offer a sense of belonging in an organized setting. The church wants to be part of what people like about the whole of the Estero area.

*Church* – This is who we are. The term “church” is understood by the baby boomers we hope to attract, as a worshipping organization. Our organization is about worship, mission, and fellowship.

*PCUSA* – You may be asking, “Why not *Estero Presbyterian Church*?” We debated including “presbyterian” in the name for some time. The following is from one of the sources we used to study church names:

Consider what you will gain or lose by putting your denomination's name in the church name.

Church names are not necessarily specific to a denomination, as if there is a specific category for Pentecostal church names, for example. But you do have to answer: Should you put the name of your denomination in your church name?

There are usually two sides to this debate. The first side says you shouldn't do so because if you do, you'll automatically lose people who don't identify with your denomination. When people do a Google search for "churches near me" and see "Baptist" on a name, they think, "I'm not Baptist. Looks like I won't be going there." These church leaders are thinking of barriers to entry.

The second side says you should include your denomination in your church name because if you don't, you're not being true to your identity. You might be coming off as deceptive or sneaky. Besides, there may be a few Baptists who do that Google search thing you're talking about and just might come. These church leaders are thinking about authenticity.

I see a case for both sides.

By ending the name with PCUSA, we are using the best of both arguments. First, our specific denomination is in the name, non-generic. Anyone who is concerned about denominations may go online and look us up. Second, most of the people who have been coming lately, have come from other denominations. Out of the six in the current new member class, none are presbyterian. Denominational loyalty is strongly waning with baby boomers and younger.

Brothers and sisters, we have made a major change in moving to a new location and working toward renewal, a name change will help in our transition.

### Rationale and Process for Name Change

A proposal to change the name of our church is the result of three years of prayer, work and study by our congregation, session and Vision Team. Our Vision team was charged with defining what the future of our church might look like. The future involved where we should move, who we might be ministering to, what a new facility might look like, and how all these factors might change our worship, mission, and congregation.

A demographic study showed that the great majority of our congregation lived within the Village of Estero. Estero is a rapidly growing area, and further investigation revealed that the people moving into the area were most often preretirement, or young retirees. Some people might call this group Baby Boomers. Study and workshops helped us understand more fully what this age group is looking for in a church. This information led us to begin to develop a picture of the type of building, worship style, music, mission, and activities that would help us appeal to people moving into Estero and help us grow in our outreach in the community.

Both session and the Vision Team felt the name of our church should reflect not only where our church home is, but that we feel our mission is to be an effective outreach vehicle in our community. However, you will notice that PCUSA is part of the proposed name change. Our church is not and will not be non-denominational. The Congregation, Session, and Vision Team feel a strong connection with PCUSA.

After deliberation and prayer in session meetings, a Congregational meeting was called to approve the name change from Hope United Church PCUSA to Estero Community Church PCUSA. As you will see in the minutes of that meeting a motion was made to change our name to the aforementioned Estero Community Church PCUSA. The motion was seconded, and discussion and questions were answered. When discussion was concluded, a unanimous vote passed the motion by a quorum as determined by our by-laws. A Corporation meeting followed, and a motion was made to direct the

officers of the corporation to file the necessary documents with the state of Florida reflecting our new name should Presbytery approve our request. This motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

This process started in late 2017 and has resulted in untold hours of searching, study, and hope that through God's guidance our congregation will retain what makes it spiritually strong and special and begin to grow into a vital new congregation in Estero.

This process has enabled us to look toward the future with faith, hope, and energy. It has been a long, exhausting, and often convoluted journey, but we are confident that God has been guiding us to our new home and mission to our community.