

MINUTES
132st Stated Meeting
Presbytery of the Pines
First Presbyterian Church – Texarkana, Arkansas
Oct. 8, 2022

CONSTITUTION

Moderator Rev. Dr. Jim Freeman called the meeting to order at 10:13 a.m. The moderator led the body in prayer.

According to the Manual of Operation, a quorum of the presbytery shall be 10% of the eligible ruling elder commissioners and ministers of word and sacrament. At present that equals 7.6 people. The following were present, thereby constituting a quorum:

Ministers of the Word and Sacrament – Present (4)

Mark Armstrong, Jim Freeman, Julia Farrell, Joe Lundy, Alex Pappas, Stephen Sanders, Will Scott, David Stipp-Bethune

Ministers of the Word and Sacrament – Absent (2)

James Giddens, Beth Sentell

Ministers of the Word and Sacrament – Excused (1)

Jason Leonard

Honorably Retired – Present (3)

Alford Branch, Maetta Snyder, and George Wortham

Honorably Retired – Excused (18)

John Albright, Dianne Brown, Ralph Burns, Philip Farris, Dan Hignight, Joe Hill, Mark Kennedy, John McClland, Bryan McDowell, Philip McLarty, Allison Moody, Lauren Moore, Mike Morgan, Robin Nygaard, Tom Reinowski, Jerry Thompkins, Art Vance, and Bill Willis

Elders Commissioned by Session (18)

Alto (absent); Athens (excused); Belcher – Danny Logan; Benton (absent); Bastrop - (excused); Bossier City - Korean (absent); Bossier City – Trinity – (absent); Camden – Ham Singleton; Carthage (absent); Chidester – Gene Peterman; Choudrant – Alabama (absent); Crossett – absent; El Dorado – Mike Landers; Ferriday – (absent); Frierson (absent); Grand Cane (absent); Haynesville (absent); Homer (absent); Hope – Kay King; Jonesville – Martha Brallier; Keatchie (absent); Lake Providence (absent); Lake Village (excused); Magnolia – Pierre Boumtje; Manfield-Red Lick (absent); Monticello-Holmes Chapel (absent);

Monticello-First – Eric Prichard; Natchitoches – Link Hall; Newellton (absent); Plain Dealing-First (absent); Plain Dealing –Cottage Grove (absent) Rayville- Sandra Watson; Ruston – Betty Jo Fagan; Shreveport-Broadmoor – Suzanne Wilson; Shreveport-First – Betty Henderson, Rob Ajluni; Tallulah (absent); Texarkana – Nancy Jackson; Union (New Covenant Parish) – Karen Zymicki; Vidalia (absent); Warren – excused; West Monroe – Lane Thompson; Winnfield (absent); Winnsboro – John Guice.

Elders Enrolled in Presbytery

Donna Rose – present; Danny Logan – present; Susan Smith – present

Corresponding Members

None

Agency Representatives

None

Visitors

Martine Boumtje, Magnolia; Yvonne Craft, Ruston; Linda Peterman, Chidester; Rutha Branch, Monticello; Sam Snyder, Monticello.

WORSHIP

Divine Worship was led by Ruling Elder Hamilton Singleton, Presbytery moderator-elect, Camden; Teaching Elder Will Scott, FPC-Shreveport; Teaching Elder Jim Freeman, moderator of Presbytery, Broadmoor-Shreveport; and Wes Reed, organist, FPC-Hope

CALL TO ORDER

Moderator Rev. Dr. Jim Freeman called the business meeting of Presbytery to order at 10:13 a.m.

REPORT OF THE STATED CLERK

Nancy Bergeron, Stated Clerk presented the report. **IT WAS VOTED** to adopt the following recommendations:

1. Report of Quorum.
2. That the docket be approved.
3. That the minutes of the Presbytery meeting of June 11th be approved.
4. That Donna Rose, Danny Logan, and Susan Smith be enrolled in Presbytery while serving as moderators of committees.
5. That all previous actions of the Presbytery taken through electronic meetings of the Presbytery be ratified.
6. That the following dates be approved in the year 2023 for Stated Meetings of Presbytery:
 - a. Feb. 11, 2023

- b. June 10, 2023
- c. Oct. 14, 2023

REPORT OF THE GENERAL PRESBYTER

George Wortham, Interim General Presbyter, gave an overview of continued changes taking place in the Presbytery including the new partnership with New Iona church. New Iona's secretary has been hired by the Presbytery as a part time bookkeeper. Hoping for a financial report by the end of the year. Another goal is to get all committees back up and running; to do that a call as gone out for names of people who might want to serve on a committee. Committees meet via Zoom.

The report was received as information.

REPORTS FROM PROGRAMS AND AGENCIES

Revitalization and Redevelopment Program. Alford Branch, Presbytery Associate for Revitalization and Redevelopment, presented the report. The report was received as information. (See attached)

Report on the Commissioned Pastor Program. Julia Farrell, Pastoral Ministries Coordinator, presented the report. The report was received as information. (See attached)

DISCUSSION AND FEEDBACK ON STATE OF THE PRESBYTERY

George Wortham, Interim General Presbyter, reported the Presbytery sends to General Assembly only the per capita it collects, which may – or may not – be what GA assesses. The question becomes how do we finance mission in a changing environment? All judicatories are having to find a way to function in a changing economy.

REPORT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY COMMISSIONERS – TE Jim Freeman, RE Susan Smith

The reports were received as information.

REPORT OF THE PRESBYTERY LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

PLC Moderator Donna Rose presented the report. The decisions made by the PLC in the name of the Presbytery since the June 11, 2022, meeting are as follows:

1. That the following nominations:
 - Rev. Jim Freeman – commissioner to Synod, 2023
 - Rev. Alex Pappas – moderator-elect, 2023

- Lane Thompson – moderator of Committee on Representation, 2023

IT WAS VOTED to ratify the actions taken by the PLC and that those actions be entered in the minutes.

The report was received as information.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY

COM Moderator David Stipp-Bethune, moderator, presented the report. The following actions taken under commission powers are hereby entered in the minutes:

ITEM #1: The Committee on Ministry **RECOMMENDS** that the Presbytery **COMMISSION** Ruling Elder Pierre Boumtje as a Commissioned Pastor for the Presbytery, authorized to provide the following services:

- Pulpit supply and leadership in worship services.
- Officiate at funerals.
- Officiate at Weddings.
- Moderate meetings of Sessions and Congregational meetings with permission of the COM.
- Administer the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.
- Administer the Sacrament of Baptism.
- Make hospital visits when requested and as available.

ITEM #2: The Committee on Ministry reports the following actions were taken using the commission powers granted by Presbytery, and asks that they be entered into the minutes of the Presbytery:

- ✚ **IT WAS VOTED** that the examination of Joe Lundy be sustained as complete, and, if the way be clear, that Joe Lundy be received as a member of Presbytery of the Pines.
- ✚ **IT WAS VOTED** to approve the MIF submitted by First Presbyterian-Texarkana to be uploaded, circulated/matched via CLC.
- ✚ **IT WAS VOTED** to elect the following individuals as the commission to close the First Presbyterian Church of Vidalia, Louisiana: Ruling Elder Sandra Watson, Ruling Elder John Guice and Teaching Elder Mark Armstrong; with Ruling Elder John Guice to moderate the commission.
- ✚ **BY COMMON CONSENT**, Ruling Elder Barbara Callaway, Ruling Elder Ed Evans and Teaching Elder Bryan McDowell were elected as the task force to visit with the Benton church, charged with assessing its current and future ministry. The task force will select a date to visit with the church.

- ✚ **IT WAS VOTED** to approve Lori Robinson as a candidate for the interim position at the Texarkana church and to transfer her membership to the Presbytery of the Pines when the way be clear.
- ✚ **IT WAS VOTED** to transfer the Rev. Hal Schafer to Lake Huron Presbytery.
- ✚ **IT WAS VOTED** to name the Rev. Seong S. Lee, a minister member of Grace Presbytery, be named moderator of the Session of the Shreveport/Bossier Korean Church, if the way be clear.
- ✚ **IT WAS VOTED** to elect the following individuals as the commission to close the Benton Presbyterian Church: Ruling Elder Ed Evans (FPC-Natchitoches), Ruling Elder Barbara Callaway (Broadmoor-Shreveport), and Teaching Elder Bryan McDowell.
- ✚ **IT WAS VOTED** to approve the Commissioned Pastor Application submitted by Ruling Elder Pierre Boumtje, and to recommend to the Presbytery he be commissioned.
- ✚ **IT WAS VOTED** to approve the Glassell Fund application for David Stipp-Bethune for Continuing Education to participate in Interim Training, Week 2.
- ✚ **IT WAS VOTED** to approve a 3-month contract between the Rev. Lori Robinson and the First Presbyterian Church of Texarkana, with the anticipation of renewing the contract January 1st as a 12-month contract. (Temporary ministry contracts cannot be for more than 12 months).

A service of commissioning was held for Pierre Boumtje.

ADJOURNMENT

With all business being completed, Moderator Freeman declared the meeting adjourned at 12:23 p.m. and offered the closing prayer.

Rev. Dr. Jim Freeman, Moderator

Nancy A. Bergeron, Stated Clerk

**Revitalization and Redevelopment Program's Report
to the Presbytery of the Pines, Oct. 8, 2022
by Rev. Dr. Alford Branch**

Since the June 11, 2022 Presbytery meeting, the 7 churches of the revitalization and redevelopment program have been working toward implementing the practical recommendations of corporate prayer and evangelism which includes intentionally inviting people to worship service and other church related events. The churches were encouraged to plan and implement ways of inviting people of their communities to worship service and other church related events beginning last July. Some churches are further along than others.

During the months of July and August I visited each church in-person, to assess what recommendations the churches might need to make in order to be prepared for future visitors. A zoom meeting is scheduled for Sept. 13th to hear updates and recommend changes that could enhance the worship service experiences, church property appearances, etc.

I feel that all 7 churches possess the characteristics necessary to become who God want them to be if they continue making the necessary changes.

Rev. Dr. Alford Branch
Associate for Revitalization and Redevelopment

Commissioned Pastor Program and Pastoral Ministries Report
by Rev. Julia N. Farrell
September 13, 2022

The Commissioned Pastor Program just celebrated its one year anniversary in August. This program is committed to serving the presbytery by educating and training our Ruling Elders to serve our congregations through pastoral leadership. This fall we are offering a course in PC(USA) Polity to our participants.

Ruling Elders currently enrolled in the program are as follows:

John Alwood, Ferriday (First, Ferriday)
Charles Anders, Bastrop (First, Bastrop)
Ray Boggs, Plain Dealing (Cottage Grove PC)
Sherri Bullard, Winnsboro (First, Winnsboro)
Jacob Dickson, Shreveport (First, Shreveport)
LaShunda Jackson, Monticello (Holmes Chapel PC)
Gene Peterman, Chidester (Tates Bluff PC)
Eric Prichard, Monticello (First, Monticello)
Donna Rose, Natchitoches (First, Natchitoches)
Gary Young, Shreveport (Broadmoor PC)
Karen Zywicki, Winnsboro (Union PC)

*Lane Thompson (New Iona PC) participated in this program for the past year, and enrolled in Dubuque Theological Seminary to begin work toward his Master of Divinity this fall.

The Commissioned Pastor Program is a special cohort of people whom God has called together to serve Christ's church. Many of these women and men live in rural pockets of our presbytery where it is difficult to find Teaching Elders. Consequently, their congregations are able to benefit from their pastoral leadership and dedication to theological learning.

If you are interested in exploring a call as a Commissioned Pastor, please contact me and fill out an application. This is an open program where anyone can join at any time. Once a Ruling Elder submits his/her application, the committee will review the individual's gifts and experiences; and with the applicant, will decide the best path forward.

Rev. Julia Nance Farrell
Pastoral Ministries Coordinator, Pines Presbytery