

# COUNCIL MEETING

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## Presbytery of South Louisiana Tuesday, January 17, 2017

Church of the Way Presbyterian Church  
250 S. Foster Dr.  
Baton Rouge, LA 70806  
(225/275-7393)

[www.pbysouthla.org](http://www.pbysouthla.org)

**VISION:** Joining Christ in the world, the Presbytery of South Louisiana strengthens congregations, empowers leaders, and impacts communities.

**MISSION STATEMENT:**

*In the service of Jesus Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit*

*We will promote the spiritual, mental & physical health of our Congregations, Minister-Members, Christian Educators and other Church Professionals;*

*We will help our congregations to carry out their missions and connect them to each other as well as to the larger Church, and*

*We will coordinate and execute those ministries specific to the Presbytery.*

*All that we do is dedicated to the Glory of God.*

**THE GREAT ENDS OF THE CHURCH:**

*The great ends of the Church are the proclamation of the gospel for the salvation of humankind; the shelter, nurture, and spiritual fellowship of the children of God; the maintenance of divine worship; the preservation of the truth; the promotion of social righteousness; and the exhibition of the Kingdom of Heaven to the world. (Book of Order F-1.0304)*

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# MINUTES FOR APPROVAL

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## COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES:

### COUNCIL MEETING

Presbytery of South Louisiana  
Tuesday, September 20, 2016  
Church of the Way

#### **Voting Members**

#### **Ruling Elders**

Chip Chiphe, Council Vice Moderator  
Jackie Barnett, Finance  
Donna Stogner, Committee on Ministry  
Dave White, Personnel  
Mary Mikell, Preparation for Ministry  
Margaret Boone, Presbyterian Women

#### **Teaching Elders**

Rev. Layne Brubaker, Council Moderator  
Rev. Ted Roeling, PSL Moderator  
Rev. Janie McElwee-Smith, CPM  
Rev. Zach Sasser, Communications  
Rev. John Blewitt, Congregational Development  
Rev. Dick Krajieski, Missions  
Rev. Judy Roeling, Nominating  
Rev. Rob White, North Shore Cluster

#### **Advisory Members**

Rev. Dr. Ron Sutto, General Presbyter and Stated Clerk  
Elder Tom Tucker, Treasurer  
Julia Miller, Office Administrator  
Rev. Linda Kelly, Recording Clerk  
Dick Wuensch, Feliciana Retreat Center  
Amy Heintz, Youth Coordinator  
Linda Walker, Cuba Partnership  
Vincent Grossi, Hunger Action Advocate  
Elder Jack Bagent, Feliciana Management Team  
Christina Drake, Disaster Recovery Coordinator  
Haley Ingram, YAV

#### **Absent**

Rev. Constance McIntosh, Spiritual Formation  
Rev. Tom Paine – GNO/Bayou  
Brad Price - FRC  
Rev. Randall Richmond – GBR

The meeting was called to order with prayer at 1:00 p.m. by Rev. Layne Brubaker, Moderator.

Vinnie Grossi opened the meeting with devotions, followed with Communion by intinction celebrated by Rev. Zach Sasser.

#### Approval of Minutes

1 M/S/C that the minutes of June 7, 2016, of the 133<sup>rd</sup> Stated Meeting of the Presbytery be approved  
2 with one correction, that is, on line 26 on page 6 under the Finance Committee report the phrase  
3 “That the Presbytery of South Louisiana approve the release of \$25,000 from the Peace Church Fund  
4 for the purpose of continuing *Camp Agape*” be changed to “for the purpose of continuing  
5 *operations.*”  
6

7 M/S/C that the following Electronic Council Votes be approved as presented:  
8

- 9 (1) May 18, 2016 to approve Jane Conerly to serve on the PSL Nominating Committee  
10  
11 (2) May 18, 2016 to approve the request from the Mission Committee regarding sending \$5,000  
12 from the Grand Bayou Tribal Recognition Fund (a restricted fund set up with money from  
13 GA) to the Jean Charles’ Biloxi-Chitimacha-Choctaw Tribe (IdJC) for their use to obtain federal  
14 tribe recognition.  
15  
16 (3) July 5, 2016 to approve the request from the St. Andrew Presbyterian Church for funds in the  
17 amount of \$2800 from the Ann Cook Campbell Fund for roof and parking lot repair and  
18 maintenance of the building.  
19

20 M/S/C that the minutes of May 10, 2016 of the meeting of Council be approved as presented.  
21

## 22 REPORT OF THE MODERATOR OF PRESBYTERY – Rev. Ted Roeling 23

### 24 Disaster Report from August Flood

25 Due to the flooding of the Presbytery office in August, 2016, the Presbytery office has temporarily  
26 been moved to the Church of the Way.  
27

28 As an initial response, a Disaster Response Committee was initiated by Ron Sutto, General  
29 Presbyter. A Disaster Response Commission has since been established with the following  
30 members: Ron Sutto, Chip Chiphe, Layne Brubaker, Ted Roeling, Tom Tucker, and Julia Miller.  
31

32 Further, a Disaster Response Team has been put into place with the following members:

33 Jean Marie Peacock, Moderator  
34 Christina Drake, Disaster Recovery Coordinator  
35 Crawford Brubaker, Disaster Recovery Assistant  
36 Donna Gay Anderson, First Hammond  
37 Caroline Cottingham, First Hammond  
38 Betsy Irvine, University Baton Rouge  
39 Chip Chiphe, Scotlandville  
40 Zach Sasser, First Lafayette

### 41 Felician Management Center

42 Ted reported that for personal reasons Brad Price has resigned as Chair of the Felician  
43 Management Team, and that Jack Bagent will assume the position of Vice Moderator for FMT.  
44

## 45 REPORT FROM THE GENERAL PRESBYTER AND STATED CLERK – Ron Sutto 46

### 47 Presbytery Office Flooding

1 Ron reported on the flooding of the Presbytery office stating that there had been approximately 14”  
2 of water throughout causing loss of computers and server. On-site and off-site back-up is in place.  
3 Meetings are taking place with an architect to redesign PSL office space.  
4

5 Ron thanked the Church of the Way and the Highland Church for offering temporary administrative  
6 space for the Presbytery office, as well as First Scotlandville for offering storage space.  
7

#### 8 Personal Thanks

9 Ron thanked the Presbytery for their kindness and consideration over the past few weeks as he has  
10 been out-of-pocket on several occasions due to health concerns for his daughter and brother.  
11

#### 12 REPORT FROM THE DISASTER RECOVERY TEAM – Christina Drake

13 A written report was presented that included the following:

- 14 (1) PSL Disaster Response Mission Statement (Attachment A)
  - 15 (2) PSL Disaster Response Team/2016 Floods – Roles & Responsibilities (Attachment B)
  - 16 (3) Report from the PSL Response Team meeting of September 19, 2016 (Attachment C)
  - 17 (4) Job Description – Recovery Coordinator (Attachment D)
  - 18 (5) Job Description – Assistant for Immediate Disaster Response/2016 Floods (Attachment E)
- 19

20 Christina reported that there will be three disaster response hubs set up for the purpose of housing  
21 volunteers and work partners in Hammond, Lafayette, and Baton Rouge. She noted that our  
22 churches can be of help in the following ways:  
23

- 24 • Provide pastoral care
  - 25 • Provide weekend or day-by-day volunteers – contact the PDA Call Center
  - 26 • Donate to PSL 2016 Floods
  - 27 • Give through special offerings
- 28

#### 29 BREAK-OUT DISCUSSION GROUPS

30 At 2:25 p.m. Council was divided into three groups for the purpose of receiving committee reports  
31 and preparing action items. The Council was reconvened at 3:10 p.m.  
32

#### 33 GROUP #1

##### 34 Youth Council

35 Amy Heintz was welcomed as new Youth Coordinator for PSL.  
36  
37

##### 38 Nominating

39 The Committee is in the process of creating a smoother, easier method of accomplishing  
40 nominations for all committees and is considering a Christian Formation “umbrella” that will  
41 help focus PSL energy for an overhaul of PSL committees.  
42

##### 43 Presbyterian Women

44 The Fall Retreat is scheduled for October 21-22, with Judy Roeling as worship leader. Three  
45 Bible study rallies were cancelled due to the flood.  
46

##### 47 Cuba Partnership

48 The IPRC (Presbytery and Synod in Cuba) is in dire need of pastors, and a scholarship  
49 program is being considered for the seminary in Matanzas. Linda Walker will attend the

1 Cuba Partners Network (PCUSA) meeting in Cuba on October 4-8 where paths for  
2 reconciliation and future trips to Cuba for pastors and members interested in exploring  
3 church partnerships will be discussed.  
4

5 GROUP #2  
6

7 Missions

8 Concerns were expressed regarding food security, including concern for five Native American  
9 Tribes and the building of a native people food cooperative with the Department of  
10 Agriculture; farming activity in shrimping, oystering, and crabbing; reconciliation within our  
11 Cuban Partnerships; and continuing presentations as a cooperative effort between Wetlands  
12 and Project Homecoming.  
13

14 Finance

15 It's budget time. PSL remains dependent upon deficit spending, drawing from its reserves. In  
16 answer to the question, "What does your committee need to continue its work?", the  
17 response is "money!"  
18

19 Committee on Preparation for Ministry

20 There are sixteen people presently under care. Three new people have recently been added:  
21 Theresa King, Colleen Earp, and Hannah Mills. A need was expressed to have Teaching Elder  
22 mentors for our CRE's.  
23

24 GROUP #3  
25

26 Young Adult Volunteers

27 A new group of YAV's will be commissioned at the October Presbytery meeting – six young  
28 women and one young man. Two second-year YAV's are continuing. The YAV Board is going  
29 through some changes, currently has nine members. There is mold growing in one of the  
30 bathrooms at Andrews House; they are seeking funding for repairs.  
31

32 Feliciana Retreat Center

33 The Retreat Center was only minimally affected by the floods. However, they lost eight  
34 groups that had been scheduled, but got bookings from other places that were flood-  
35 affected. Booking times are getting shorter.  
36

37 Personnel

38 Questions had been raised regarding child protection policies. With the help of the  
39 insurance board, the committee is in the process of developing a new child welfare and  
40 protection policy for PSL.  
41

42 It was also noted that Julia Miller celebrates her seven-year anniversary with PSL on  
43 September 14, 2016.  
44

45 Committee on Ministry

46 The committee continues to work with church leaders through difficult relationships.  
47

48 GROUP #4  
49

1 Committee on Ministry

2 The committee is working on two policies:

- 3 (1) Adding a child abuse policy to the sexual misconduct policy (mandated)  
4 (2) Creating a family leave policy (not-mandated)

5  
6 The committee is also in the process of setting up an Elder training curriculum in each  
7 geographical area.

8  
9 The Carrolton Park Church is closing due to decreasing membership. COM is considering  
10 possibilities for their property.

11  
12 Feliciana Management Team

13 Brian Frick from Camps & Conferences (PCUSA) reviewed FRC, saw the facilities, and gave a  
14 favorable report. He noted that FRC is viable; however, contributions from PSL are below  
15 the average for other presbyteries. These recommendations were suggested:

- 16 • Possible changes in management or the FMT, including adding younger and/or more  
17 computer knowledgeable members  
18 • Some places, such as the camping areas, have not been well maintained. The  
19 cottages and the lodge are in good condition. There is great potential for the log  
20 cabin.

21  
22 Feliciana has an ongoing cash problem – \$25,000 was received from the Peace Church Fund  
23 for operations. Expenses must be decreased.

24  
25 Communications

26 Grant money is still available, i.e. the Louisiana Board of Presbyterian Publications.  
27 Committee is working on website. A new chairperson is needed.

28  
29 Congregational Development

30 The committee is excited about the Community Garden and Vinny Grossi's work there. A  
31 new chairperson is needed as John Blewitt has accepted a call to Texas.

32  
33 Finance

34 PSL is on track as anticipated in the 2016 Budget.

35  
36 The March 2016 flooding had huge impact, as well as the August 2016 flooding. Two bank  
37 accounts have been established for funds and grants received – one for flood recovery and  
38 the second for the PSL office recovery.

39  
40 Two new satellite offices have been established – one for Vinny Grossi, Hunger Action  
41 Advocate and a second for Amy Heintz, Youth Coordinator.

42  
43 Youth Coordinator

44 Amy noted that she is excited about her new responsibilities with PSL and is making contacts  
45 with the various churches.

46  
47 ACTION ITEMS

48  
49 Memorandum of Understanding (Attachment F and G)

1  
2 M/S/C that the Memorandum of Understanding between PSL and Church of the Way for leasing  
3 four office spaces be approved as presented. PSL will occupy the space for six months effective  
4 August 22, 2016 through March 31, 2017. Either party may cancel with two weeks' notice.

- 5 • PSL will coordinate dates for use of Fellowship Hall with the Session of COW.
- 6 • PSL will be responsible for all internet, telephone, and other changes to be made to  
7 the existing space.
- 8 • PSL will pay for additional cleaning and set-up staff, as needed.
- 9 • PSL will coordinate schedules with existing tenants at COW.
- 10 • PSL will pay \$600 per month leasing fee. Electricity, water and trash is included in the  
11 \$600 fee.

12  
13 M/S/C that the Memorandum of Understanding between PSL and Scotlandville Presbyterian  
14 Church for leasing storage space be approved as presented. PSL will occupy the space for six  
15 months effective September 22, 2016 through March 31, 2017. Either party may cancel with  
16 two weeks' notice.

- 17 • PSL will pay \$100 per month leasing fee. Electricity, water and trash included in the  
18 \$100 fee.

#### 19 20 Request from Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services

21 A request has been received from Mavis Matthews of Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services  
22 that there are families, including children who are still displaced due to the flood. Several items are  
23 needed for these families, i.e. diapers, toothbrushes, toothpaste, etc.

24  
25 M/S/C that information (a list of needs) be published prior to the October Presbytery meeting  
26 that those attending can bring items for the displaced families as requested by Presbyterian  
27 Children's Homes and Services.

#### 28 29 Sound System Equipment and Operation

30 There is a need to have someone "shepherd the sound system" and keep track of its rental as John  
31 Blewitt will no longer be available for this task. By consensus it was agreed that John interview  
32 qualified persons and recommend to Council for vote a person to take on this responsibility.

#### 33 34 Treasurer Reports – Tom Tucker

35 M/S/C that the 2016 Flooding – Church Damage Grant reports (p. 53-60) be received and sent to  
36 Presbytery at its October stated meeting.

37  
38 M/S/C that the PSL August Financial Report be received and sent to Presbytery at its October stated  
39 meeting.

40  
41 M/S/C that the updated policy for PSL Financial Procedures (pp. 62-90) be approved and sent to  
42 Presbytery at its October stated meeting.

43  
44 M/S/C that the FMT Treasurer's Report (pp. 27-28) be received and sent to Presbytery at its October  
45 stated meeting.

46  
47 M/S/C that the YAV Budget for 2017, which is the same as 2016, be approved and sent to Presbytery  
48 at its October stated meeting.

1 M/S/C that the FRC Budget for 2017 be received and sent to Presbytery at its October stated  
2 meeting.

3  
4 Committee on Preparation for Ministry – Mary Mikell – pp. 21-22

5 M/C that Jerry Egbert be examined by Presbytery at its October stated meeting to become a  
6 Candidate in the Presbyterian Church (USA).

7  
8 Feliciana Retreat Center – Jack Bagent – pp. 24-28

9 M/S/C that the PSL Council recommend to Presbytery for approval and election an Administrative  
10 Commission to work with the Feliciana Management Team to determine the future of the Feliciana  
11 Retreat and Conference Center. The Administrative Commission shall be composed of six members  
12 – two Teaching Elders and four Ruling Elders. Further the Council will establish the duties and  
13 responsibilities of the Commission. The Administrative Commission will report back to the PSL at its  
14 stated October 2017 Presbytery meeting.

15  
16 Finance – Jackie Cummings (Attachment H – 2017 Budget Narrative Report)

17 PSL has been operating in deficit spending, dependent upon its reserves. The Vision Team had  
18 made the recommendation, which was passed by Presbytery, that the 2017 Budget would be based  
19 on actual income from 2016 set aside for 2017. Unfortunately, this did not occur. Therefore, the  
20 2017 Budget is once again based on deficit spending.

21  
22 The Finance Committee recommends that the Vision Team and the Budget Task Force meet  
23 together to discuss the budget process for the 2018 Budget before the end of 2016. This was  
24 agreed upon by consensus.

25  
26 NEW BUSINESS

27  
28 Ron noted with thanksgiving the seven-year anniversary of Julia Miller with the PSL office. He also  
29 noted that it is with thanksgiving and sadness that we say goodbye to Karen Blewitt, as her husband  
30 John has accepted a new call to a church in Texas.

31  
32 There being no further business to come before this Council, the meeting was adjourned with prayer by  
33 Moderator Layne Brubaker at 4:23 p.m.

34  
35 Respectfully submitted,

36  
37  
38  
39 Rev. Linda L. Kelly  
40 Recording Clerk  
41  
42  
43  
44  
45  
46  
47  
48  
49



Electronic Council Vote  
Presbytery of South Louisiana  
October 21, 2016

On October 21, 2016, at 2:08 p.m., Layne Brubaker sent out the following e-mail for Council Electronic Vote:

Please respond all with your electronic vote to the following motion: (This motion is to specifically give Ron and Lee the ability to sign the paperwork on the below sale which Presbytery already approved).

The Council of The Presbytery of South Louisiana authorizes RE Lee Randall or Stated Clerk Ron Sutto, to sign all documents related to the sale of the CPUMI building on Felicity Street, New Orleans.

At the October 15, 2016, Stated Meeting, PSL voted to sell the above-mentioned property to Project Home Coming at the agreed price of \$10,000. Proceeds to be placed in the YAV Fund.

The result of the electronic vote is as follows:

Name	Yes	No	Comments
Blewitt, John – Congregational Development			
Brubaker, Layne – Council Moderator			
Carroll, Peggy - PW			
Chiphe, Chip – Council Vice-Moderator	x		
Cummings, Jackie – Finance			
Krajeski, Dick – Missions			
McIntosh, Constance – Spiritual Formation	x		
Mikell, Mary – CPM			
Powell, Fred – Greater NO/Bayou Cluster			
Richmond, Randy – Baton Rouge Cluster			
Price, Brad – FMT			
Roeling, Judy – Nominating			
Roeling, Ted – PSL Moderator	x		
Sasser, Zach – Communications			
Stogner, Donna – COM			
White, Dave – Personnel	x		
White, Rob – Northshore Cluster	x		

On October 21, 2016 at 8:54 p.m., Layne Brubaker emailed Council that the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Linda L. Kelly, Recording Clerk

Electronic Council Vote  
Presbytery of South Louisiana  
November 21, 2016

On November 21, 2016 at 4:53 p.m., Layne Brubaker sent out the following e-mail for Council Electronic Vote:

To approve a request from the Session of St. Andrew Presbyterian Church to release funding from the Ann Cook Campbell Fund in the amount of \$6,967.20 for the insurance of the building for the years 2016 and 2017.

This is a reserve fund to help with funding for the St. Andrews Church building. Council administers this funding and this request must be approved by Council. Please respond all to this email with a vote of Yes or NO.

The result of the electronic vote is as follows:

Name	Yes	No	Comments
Blewitt, John – Congregational Development			
Brubaker, Layne – Council Moderator			
Carroll, Peggy - PW			
Chiphe, Chip – Council Vice-Moderator	x		
Cummings, Jackie – Finance	x		
Krajeski, Dick – Missions	x		
McIntosh, Constance – Spiritual Formation	x		
Mikell, Mary – CPM	x		
Powell, Fred – Greater NO/Bayou Cluster			
Richmond, Randy – Baton Rouge Cluster			
Price, Brad – FMT			
Roeling, Judy – Nominating			
Roeling, Ted – PSL Moderator	x		
Sasser, Zach – Communications			
Stogner, Donna – COM	x		
White, Dave – Personnel			
White, Rob – Northshore Cluster	x		

At 9:07 p.m. Layne Brubaker emailed Council that the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Linda L. Kelly, Recording Clerk

1  
2  
3 134<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting of the  
4 Presbytery of South Louisiana  
5 October 14-15, 2016  
6  
7

8 The 134<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of South Louisiana was held on October 14-15, 2016, at the  
9 Feliciana Retreat Center. On Friday, October 14, at 6:30 p.m., the meeting was called to order with  
10 prayer outside the Lodge by Moderator, Rev. Ted Roeling. This was followed by a welcome to FRC by  
11 Dick Weunsch and an outdoor picnic. After dinner, Presbytery was led in a campfire worship by the  
12 YAV's. The Presbytery was then dismissed for the evening.  
13

14 On Saturday, October 15, at 9:45 a.m. Moderator Ted Roeling called the meeting again to order with  
15 prayer. Ron Sutto affirmed that a quorum was present, and Ted appointed a Resolutions Committee:  
16 RE Nanette Cagney, RE Dr. Paul Jackson and TE Rob White. He also asked TE Chan Willis and RE Sandy  
17 Broussard to act as counters, if needed.  
18

19 WELCOME – Jack Bagent, Moderator of Feliciana Management Team

20 The Presbytery of South Louisiana was welcomed to the Feliciana Retreat Center by Jack Bagent.  
21

22 WORSHIP AND COMMUNION

23 TE Jean Marie Peacock offered a meditation utilizing texts from Psalm 121 and Mark 4:35-41  
24 offering post-flood comfort in “The Calming of the Storm.” Jean Marie and Ted Roeling then offered  
25 the Sacrament of Holy Communion by intinction.  
26

27 REPORT OF STATED CLERK – TE Ron Sutto

28 Ron welcomed Commissioners, Teaching Elders, and committee chairs as voting members. He also  
29 welcomed guests as corresponding members.  
30

31 Seating of Guests and Corresponding Members

32  
33 M/S/C that the following persons be seated as invited guests and corresponding members:

34 Valerie Young – Stated Clerk of Synod of the Sun  
35 Mavis Matthews – Presbyterian Children’s Homes and Services  
36 Sarah Cleary – Development Officer, Texas and Louisiana  
37 Peggy Johnson – Evergreen Life Services  
38 Dan Krutz – LA Interchurch Conference (afternoon only)  
39 Non-Presbyterian Pastors – Jimmy Broussard, Lloyd Harsch and Bob Ogle  
40 Amy Heintz – PSL Youth Coordinator  
41 Vincent Grossi – Hunger Action Advocate  
42

43 First-time Commissioners

44 First-time Commissioners were introduced and seated.  
45

46 Minutes

47 Copies of minutes of the 133<sup>rd</sup> Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of South Louisiana held on June 7,  
48 2016, approved by Council at their September 20, 2016, meeting, were made available for review.  
49

1 Approval of the Proposed Agenda

2 The proposed Agenda for the 134<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting was approved by common consent.

3  
4 Excused Absences

5 M/S/C that the following Commissioners be excused: Keith Abramowski, Sandy Brister, Peter Choi,  
6 Ford Deith, Nancy Hanchey, Erich Mansell, Leslie Mansell, Leslie Paine, Tom Paine, Martha Robson,  
7 Patti Snyder, Daniel Vanek, Dave White

8  
9 Consent Agenda

10 No Consent Agenda was presented.

11  
12 Correspondence

13 Ron read a Care Gram received from the Community Presbyterian Church in Indiana wishing PSL  
14 well during this time of recovery from the flood.

15  
16 Request for Renounced Jurisdiction – Attachment A

17 Ron Sutto read the following report to Presbytery dated October 15, 2016:

18  
19 On September 26, 2016, the Stated Clerk received a communication from the Rev. Dr. Frank  
20 Gipson, TE Member-at-Large PSL, renouncing jurisdiction from the Presbyterian Church  
21 (USA).

22  
23 Pursuant to the Book of Order G2.0509

24 When a teaching elder submits to the stated clerk of the presbytery of membership a  
25 written statement renouncing the jurisdiction of this church, the renunciation shall be  
26 effective upon receipt. The renunciation shall be reported by the stated clerk at the next  
27 meeting of the presbytery, which record the renunciation, delete her or his name from  
28 the appropriate roll, and take such other administrative actions as may be required by  
29 this Constitution, including public communications of such renunciation.

30  
31 Let it be known, effective September 26, 2016, Rev. Dr. Frank Gipson's name has been  
32 deleted from the Active Roll of the Presbytery of South Louisiana.

33  
34 Notification sent to:

35 The office of the Stated Clerk, General Assembly PCUSA

36 The Board of Pensions PCUSA

Signed Ron Sutto, Stated Clerk

37  
38 After consideration, a prayer of thanksgiving was offered for the ministry of Rev. Gipson.

39 Recognition of Karen Blewitt – Attachment B

40 On September 10, 2016, Karen Blewitt was recognized for having completed Level I certification by  
41 the Administrative Personnel Association.

42  
43 Board of Pensions

44 Ron noted that the Board of Pensions has awarded nine \$1000 grants to Teaching Elders and/or  
45 staff persons for emergency relief.

46  
47 Project Homecoming – Attachment C

48 A letter has been received from Project Homecoming offering to purchase the property located at  
49 2126 Felicite Street, New Orleans, LA for a fair market value of \$10,000.

1  
2 M/S/C that the property located at 2126 Felicity Street, New Orleans, LA be sold to Project  
3 Homecoming for a purchase price of \$10,000 and the proceeds be given to the YAV program.  
4

5 REPORT OF HIGHER COUNCILS

6 Reports were given by CRE Jerry Egbert, RE Nanette Cagney, and TE Zach Sasser on their experiences  
7 at the June meeting of General Assembly in Portland, Oregon.  
8

9 REPORT OF COORDINATING COUNCIL – Layne Brubaker, Moderator

10 The Council met on September 20, 2016. At that meeting, the Council received the Disaster  
11 Response Report; received a Narrative Budget for 2017; and welcomed Amy Heintz as PSL Youth  
12 Coordinator.  
13

14 FELICIANA RETREAT CENTER – Jack Bagent, Moderator FMT – Attachment D & pp. 4-18

15 M/S/C that PSL elect an Administrative Commission to work with the Feliciana Management Team  
16 to manage the Feliciana Retreat Center and determine the future of FRC. The Commission will  
17 consist of the following persons, who have agreed to serve:

- 18 CRE Jerry Egbert, Chairperson – First PC, DeRidder
  - 19 RE Jack Bagent, FMT Chairperson – Highland PC, Baton Rouge
  - 20 RE Jan Boydston – University PC, Baton Rouge
  - 21 RE Sabrina Duhe – First PC, Hammond
  - 22 RE Norma Jean Luckey – First, Lafayette
  - 23 TE Barrett Milner – Lakeview PC, New Orleans
  - 24 TE Kristina Peterson – Bayou Blue PC, Gray
- 25

26 The charge to the Administrative Commission is to:

- 27 (1) Evaluate the ministry and mission of FRC, using the guidance of the report of PCUSA Associate  
28 Director for Camps/Conference Ministries, Brian Frick;
- 29 (2) Review legal and ethical commitments made by FRC for 2017;
- 30 (3) Make a determination of FRC operations for 2017, maintaining a fiscally neutral policy;
- 31 (4) Shall consider the long-term viability of FRC using the Frick report. The AC/FMT will:
  - 32 a. Consider the “Why”;
  - 33 b. Consider the “What”; and
  - 34 c. Consider the “How” of FRC as challenged in the Frick report.
- 35 (5) Act on its recommendation including, if necessary, assuming original jurisdiction of FRC;
- 36 (6) Should the determination be made that FRC be closed/sold, that recommendation must come to  
37 the Presbytery for a vote;
- 38 (7) Receive training from Brian Frick; and
- 39 (8) Present a final report of the Administrative Commission to the 137<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting of PSL,  
40 October 13-14, 2017, at First Presbyterian Church, Hammond.  
41

42 M/S/C that FRC shall continue to plan for Camp Agape 2017.  
43

44 COMMENTS FROM THE GENERAL PRESBYTER – Ron Sutto

45 Point of Personal Privilege

46 Ron thanked members of Presbytery for their thoughts and prayers regarding his family.  
47

48 Disaster Response

- 1 (1) Ron reported that the PSL office had been flooded. While computers and the network servers  
2 were affected, storage of data is secure offsite. Arrangements had been made to move PSL  
3 offices to the Church of the Way and to secure storage space at Scotlandville.  
4
- 5 (2) As per policy, immediately upon the occurrence of a disaster, the General Presbyter will call into  
6 place a Disaster Response Committee, which is comprised of the General Presbyter, Moderator  
7 of Council, Moderator of Presbytery, Vice Moderator of Presbytery and Vice Moderator of  
8 Council.  
9
- 10 (3) Plans are underway to work with a design team to redesign the Presbytery office for more  
11 efficient use of the facility, including both large and small conference rooms and library.  
12
- 13 (4) A Disaster Response Team has been appointed – Jean Marie Peacock, Chairperson.  
14
- 15 (5) Council approved a Memorandum of Understanding between PSL and Church of the way  
16 regarding the rental of temporary administrative space at a cost of \$600/month.  
17
- 18 (6) Council approved a second Memorandum of Understanding between PSL and First Church of  
19 Scotlandville to provide temporary storage for files and furniture at a cost of \$100/month.  
20
- 21 (7) Mail addressed to the 12909 Old Hammond Highway address are being forwarded to the Church  
22 of the Way.  
23  
24

25 FINANCE COMMITTEE – Jackie Cummings

26 Young Adult Volunteer Budget – p. 23 and pp. 1-2 in Budget Packet

27 M/S/C to concur with the YAV Board and the vote of Council to approve the YAV 2017 Budget as  
28 submitted.  
29

30 Feliciana Retreat Center – pp. 15-16

31 M/S/C that the FMT Treasurer’s Report dated October 15, 2016, be approved as presented.  
32

33 M/S/C that the proposed 2017 Budget for Feliciana Retreat Center be approved as presented.  
34

35 PSL Financials as of August 31, 2016 – pp. 23-69

36 M/S/C that the financials for PSL dated August 31, 2016 be received as presented.  
37

38 PSL Financial Procedures – pp. 14-21 Treasurer’s Attachments

39 M/S/C that the updated policy for PSL Financial Procedures be approved as presented.  
40

41 Pilgrimage – p. 12 of Treasurer’s Attachments

42 Pilgrimage will be held May 18-21, 2017 in Woodruff.  
43

44 Property Management – p. 13 of Treasurer’s Attachments

45 It was noted that flood insurance coverage has been secured for all PSL properties.  
46

47 Trauma Response Report – pp. 2-11 of Treasurer’s Attachments

1 M/S/C that the Presbytery concurs with Council to receive and approve the Final Report on the  
2 Church Damage Grant for Northminster Presbyterian Church and the initial Grant for Presbytery  
3 response to the March 2016 floods.

4  
5 2017 Budget Narrative Report – Jackie Cummings – Attachment E

6 Jackie then presented a simplified 2017 Budget Narrative Report, noting that this represents a year-  
7 end deficit of \$103,739. She stated that the deficit would have to be covered once again with  
8 reserve funds but reminded Presbytery that “reserves don’t last forever.” The Finance Committee is  
9 recommending a per capita commitment of \$89 per person for 2017.

10  
11 In addition, Jackie spoke about the importance of an audit. She noted that “an in-depth review of  
12 financial policies is recommended to look for operational deficiencies, to review credit classifications  
13 of investments, and to ensure adequate reporting practices. It is recommended that a review of  
14 financial procedures with all parties involved is necessary to ensure there is an understanding of the  
15 finances of Presbytery.”

16  
17 Looking ahead, the Finance Committee and the PSL Vision Team will work together to:

- 18 • Strengthen relationships within PSL through Ambassador Visits and pulpit exchanges
- 19 • Promote new strategies for stewardship and giving through:
  - 20 ○ Clear and simple financial requests between Finance and congregations
  - 21 ○ PSL Funding Day – a special offering
  - 22 ○ Cluster-wide stewardship educational events
- 23 • Develop alternate sources of funding

24  
25 Looking back, the Vision Team had made the recommendation, which was passed by Presbytery,  
26 that the 2017 Budget would be based on actual income from 2016 set aside for 2017.

27 Unfortunately, this did not occur. Therefore, the 2017 Budget is a zero-based budget. However, it is  
28 proposed that the income for 2017 will be used to build the 2018 Budget. Jackie cautioned that  
29 “this may cause cuts in some areas” and added “Y’all pray for money!”

30  
31 M/C unanimously that the 2017 Budget, as approved by Council, be approved as presented.

32  
33 After the vote, several questions and/or concerns were raised:

- 34 • What is the percentage of churches that honor the per capita and how are we addressing  
35 that issue? Tom Tucker answered that 42% of the churches pledged a commitment for  
36 2016, and 7% pledged fair share.
- 37 • If the per capita being requested is \$89 per member, who is going to ask for that?
- 38 • As clergy are members of Presbytery and not members of their congregations, should  
39 they not be accountable to Presbytery for the per capita as well? (As a result of this  
40 comment, several clergy handed checks to Jackie.)
- 41 • As we tend to send the same commissioners each time to presbytery, other Session  
42 members don’t have any idea what the presbytery does.
- 43 • Can budget requests be sent out earlier, say in October?

44  
45 LUNCH BREAK IN THE LODGE AT 12:05 P.M. – MEETING RECONVENED AT 1:15 P.M.

46  
47 Presbyterian Women – Margaret Boone – p. 26

48 A written report was submitted.

1 Youth Advisory Committee – Amy Heintz

2  
3 Congregational Development – John Blewitt

4  
5 New Worshipping Community Report: Okra Abbey – Attachment E

6 A written report was prepared by Vincent Grossi. Vinnie thanked the PSL for their support,  
7 explained the new name of Okra Abbey, and reported that he, Layne and Crawford had attended  
8 “Go Disciple Live” conference in St. Petersburg, FL.

9  
10 Hunger Action Advocate Report – Vincent Grossi – Attachment F

11 A written report was submitted.

12  
13  
14 Communications – Zach Sasser

15  
16 Nominating – Judy Roeling – pp. 27-29 and Attachment G

17 M/C that the Nominating Committee report be received and that the following persons be elected  
18 as follows. Note that the Nominating Committee has identified first three-year terms and second  
19 three-year terms with the numbers 1 and 2, respectively.

20  
21 Moderator of Presbytery – TE Layne Brubaker, GNO/Bayou, YAV Site Coordinator

22 Moderator of Council – RE Chip Chiphe, GBR, First Scotlandville

23 Vice-Moderator of Council – TE Patti Snyder, GBR, University

24 Treasurer – RE Jackie Cummings, GBR, Church of the Way

25  
26 COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY

27 Class of 2019:

28 RE Marilyn Dunn (2), St. Andrew, Lake Charles

29 CRE Jerry Egbert (2) – First, DeRidder

30 TE Betsy Irvine (2) – Member-at-Large, Baton Rouge

31 CRE Glenda Keegan (2) – Raceland

32 RE Pat Sharpe (2) – Lakeview, New Orleans

33  
34 COMMITTEE ON REPRESENTATION

35 Class of 2018:

36 TE Donald Thursby, Chair (2) – Albany Hungarian

37 Lorena Soileau (1) – St. Andrew, Lake Charles

38  
39 Class of 2019:

40 TE Maria McBurney (1) – First, Bogalusa

41 Brianna Jaramillo (1) – St. Andrew, Lake Chalres

42  
43 COMMUNICATIONS

44 Class of 2019:

45 TE Zach Sasser, Chair (2) – First, Lafayette

46  
47 CONGREGATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

48 Class of 2017:

49 TE Dick Krajewski (1) – First, Bayou Blue



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Class of 2019:  
CRE Leslie Mansell (1) – Westminster, Sulphur

FELICIANA MANAGEMENT TEAM

Class of 2019:  
RE Amy Heintz (1) – Covington  
TE Constance McIntosh – First, Welsh

FINANCE

Class of 2019:  
TE Martha Robson (2) – Baker

MISSION COMMITTEE

Class of 2017:  
RE Al Barron (1) – First, Scotlandville  
TE Layne Brubaker (1) – GNO/Bayou, NO / YAV Site Coordinator  
TE Claire Vonk Brooks (1) – Evergreen

Class of 2018:  
Vincent Grossi (1) – GNO Bayou, NO / Hunger Action Advocate  
TE Sarah Chancellor-Watson (1) – SCAPC, New Orleans

Class of 2019:  
RE Debbie Serra, Co-Chair (2) – University / Living Waters, PW Peace & Justice  
RE Linda Walker (1) – University / Cuba Partnership

PERMANENT JUDICIAL COMMISION

Class of 2021:  
RE Amy Dunn – St. Andrew, Lake Charles  
TE Tom Paine – Parkway, Metairie  
RE Miriam Schulingcamp – SCAPC, New Orleans

PERSONNEL

Class of 2019:  
RE Paul Hoffman (2) – University, Baton Rouge  
TE Rob White (2) – Covington  
RE Roger Wirth (2) – Broadmoor, Baton Rouge

PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY

Class of 2017:  
RE Mary Mikell, Co-Chair – University, Baton Rouge

Class of 2019:  
RE Walter Harris (1) – SCAPC, New Orleans  
TE Linda Kelly (2) – First, New Iberia  
TE Rick Pitcher (2) – Honorably Retired, Baton Rouge

SPIRITUAL FORMATION

1 Class of 2018:  
2 TE Constance McIntosh, Chair (1) – First, Welsh

3  
4 Class of 2019:  
5 TE Crawford Brubaker (2) – GNO/Bayou, New Orleans

6  
7 SYNOD COMMISSIONER

8 Class of 2019:  
9 RE Lynne Castle (2) – Grace, Lafayette

10  
11 YAV BOARD

12 Ford Deith, Chair  
13 Ellen Manuel  
14 Barrett Milner  
15 Peggy Brown  
16 Betsy Molansion  
17 Elaine Christoph  
18 Sarah Whicker  
19 Vincent Grossi

20  
21 A motion was made from the floor that Jackie Cummings be elected Assistant Clerk for a term to  
22 coincide with her service as PSL Treasurer.

23  
24 M/S/C to refer the above-mentioned motion to Council for further discussion and review.

25  
26 COMMISSIONING OF THE YOUNG ADULT VOLUNTEERS

27 During a Commissioning Service for the 2016-2017 Young Adult Volunteers, the following persons  
28 were commissioned as YAVs: Cherokee Adams, Haley Ingram, Savannah Fraser, Courtney Lauver,  
29 Hillary Leslie, Patrick Long, and Riley Pickett. A hand-out was presented introducing each YAV and  
30 telling PSL about their assignments. (Attachment H)

31  
32 COMMITTEE FOR PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY – Mary Mikell & Janie McElwee-Smith pp. 30-32

33 Mary and Janie introduced the CPM's latest candidate for the CRE certification, RE Theresa King of  
34 First, Bogalusa.

35  
36 Upon recommendation of the CPM, Jerald (Jerry) Egbert was examined on the floor of Presbytery to  
37 be enrolled as a Candidate for becoming a Teaching Elder in the PC(USA).

38  
39 M/S/C, following review of his Statement of Faith and examination on the floor of Presbytery of  
40 Inquirer Jerald (Jerry) Egbert, the examination was suspended.

41  
42 M/S/C, following examination and discussion, the Presbytery voted to approve moving Jerald  
43 (Jerry) Egbert from the Inquirer to the Candidate phase for becoming a Teaching Elder in the  
44 PC(USA).

45  
46 COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY – Donna Stogner – pp. 33-34

47  
48 M/C to approve the commission of CRE Erich D. Mansell, Westminster Presbyterian Church, Sulphur,  
49 be amended to authorize Erich to preside at the Sacrament of Holy Communion at other PC(USA)

1 churches and other PSL events as requested by CRE Erich Mansell and the Session of Westminster  
2 PC.

3  
4 M/C to approve the commission of CRE Leslie Mansell, Westminster Presbyterian Church, Sulphur,  
5 be amended to authorize Leslie to preside at the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper at other PC(USA)  
6 churches and other PSL events as requested by CRE Leslie Mansell and the Session of Westminster  
7 PC.

8  
9 M/C to approve the commission of CRE Glenda Keegan, Raceland Presbyterian Church, Raceland, be  
10 amended to authorize Glenda to preside at the Sacrament of Holy Communion at other PC(USA)  
11 churches and other PSL events and to include preaching and serving Gheens Presbyterian Church,  
12 Gheens, the fourth and fifth Sundays of each month and as needed, as requested by CRE Glenda  
13 Keegan and the Session of Raceland PC.

14  
15 M/C to welcome and return Rev. Stephan Sanders as a member of the Presbytery of South Louisiana  
16 and as a Minister of Word and Sacrament (Teaching Elder) in the Presbyterian Church (USA) with our  
17 apology and regret for the severance of our previous relationship.

18  
19 DISASTER RESPONSE TEAM – Jean Marie Peacock – Attachment I

20 Jean Marie thanked Crawford Brubaker for his help with the Disaster Response Team and  
21 introduced Christine Drake, the “disaster goddess,” as the new Disaster Recovery Coordinator. It  
22 was reported that 22 parishes have been affected by the August flood, 140,000 house damaged  
23 (80% without flood insurance) and that the effects of the August flood is three times greater than  
24 Katrina. There will be three disaster response hubs set up for the purpose of housing volunteers  
25 and work partners: Hammond, Lafayette, and Baton Rouge.

26  
27 WESTMINSTER FOUNDATION – Don Thursby

28 The Fall Fundraising drive has been postponed to 2017.

29  
30 EVERGREEN LIFE SERVICES – Claire Brooks and Peggy Johnson

31 Evergreen is presently servicing 1200 adults, all of whom have varying challenges.

32  
33 CUBA PARTNERSHIP – Barrett Milner and Linda Walker – p. 35

34 A celebration will be held at the Cuba partners Network Gathering (PCUSA) on October 4-8, 2016, in  
35 honor of 30 years of partnership with the Presbytery of Matanzas. A similar celebration will be held  
36 at the February 14, 2017 PSL Stated meeting.

37  
38 HUNGER ACTION ADVOCATE – Vincent Grossi

39 Vinnie noted the name change from Hunger Action Enabler to Hunger Action Advocate.

40  
41 LOUISIANA INTERCHURCH CONFERENCE – Don Kruze

42 Don noted an intentional emphasis on “speaking civilly” currently being placed upon, within and  
43 throughout the faith community.

44  
45 DATES FOR 2017 STATED PRESBYTERY MEETINGS

46 The dates and locations for the 2017 Presbytery meetings will be:

47  
48 Tuesday, February 21, 2017 – Lakeview, New Orleans  
49

1 Tuesday, June 6, 2017 – First, DeRidder

2  
3 Friday, Saturday, October 13-14, 2017 – First, Hammond

4  
5 REPORT FROM THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE – Rob White

6  
7 RESOLUTION

8  
9 WHEREAS we once again came together to worship and conduct the business of the Presbytery;

10  
11 WHEREAS we stayed at a retreat center in need of funds to survive;

12  
13 WHEREAS an Administrative Commission was formed to determine the future of this place;

14  
15 WHEREAS we commissioned YAV's and agreed to walk with Jerry;

16  
17 WHEREAS we saw and heard of the flood relief;

18  
19 WHEREAS we acknowledged an ongoing responsibility to support financially and prayerfully  
20 Feliciana, the Presbytery, the missions of the Presbytery, the price of Okra, and the  
21 excitement of youth ministry;

22  
23 WHEREAS we said farewell, hello, and welcome;

24  
25 WHEREAS we saw the beauty of God's creation;

26  
27 WHEREAS we ate gumbo, hog, and bacon – praise be to God!;

28  
29 WHEREAS it's going to be raining \$89 checks when we come back again;

30  
31 THEREFORE, we resolve that it's getting late, the meeting is over, the work has just begun, load up  
32 your stuff and go home;

33  
34 BUT . . . not before you say thanks to Karen and John Blewitt. AMEN.

35  
36 Adjournment

37 After a prayer by Moderator Ted Roeling and the singing of "Here I Am, Lord," the 134<sup>th</sup> Stated  
38 Meeting of the Presbytery of South Louisiana was adjourned at 3:25 p.m.

39  
40 Respectfully submitted,

41  
42  
43 Rev. Linda L. Kelly  
44 Recording Clerk  
45  
46

# 2017 COUNCIL AND PRESBYTERY DATES

1

2

COUNCIL MEETING DATES	REPORT DUE DATES	PACKET POSTED
JANUARY 17, 2017		
MAY 2, 2017	APRIL 18, 2017	APRIL 25, 2017
September 12, 2017	AUGUST 29, 2017	SEPTEMBER 5, 2017
PRESBYTERY MEETING DATES & LOCATION	REPORT DUE DATES	PACKET POSTED
FEBRUARY 21, 2017 LAKEVIEW PRESBYTERIAN, NEW ORLEANS	FEBRUARY 7, 2017	FEBRUARY 14, 2017
JUNE 6, 2017 FIRST PRESBYTERIAN , DE RIDDER	MAY 23, 2017	MAY 30, 2017
OCTOBER 13-14, 2017 FIRST PRESBYTERIAN, HAMMOND	SEPTEMBER 29, 2017	OCTOBER 6, 2017

# FELICIANA MANAGEMENT TEAM

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FMT meeting report Dec 7<sup>th</sup>, 2016

The meeting was opened with prayer by the Rev. Ted Roeling

Present: Ted Roeling, Ron Sutto, Jerry Egbert, Jan Boydston, Barrett Milner, Sabrina Duhe, Norma Jean Luckey, Kristina Peterson, Chip Chiphe, Brian Frick, Tom Tucker, Ralph Shaw, Buff Slaton, Amy Heintz, Constance McIntosh, John Dye, Dave Snyder and Jack Bagent

The meeting was chaired and discussions were led by Rev Brian Frick

What does it mean when the Presbyterian Church says we are a "connectional church"?

Answer: Generally it means that the Presbyterian Church is connected to the present church as well as other churches now and in the future.

The Administrative Commission (AC) will report to the PSL Council and then to the Presbytery of South Louisiana (PSL)

The AC acts on behalf of the PSL and is the direct representative of the PSL The AC can hold confidential meetings without the public input It has direct authority over the Feliciana Management Team (FMT) and the Feliciana Retreat and Conference Center (FRC).

Note ; J Bagent was requested to send the original FRC plan to members of the AC. This has been done.

## **DISCUSSION OF THE FRC BY BRIAN FRICK**

- 1) Question: How does the AC work with the FMT? The FMT will continue to guide and supervise the FRC. However, the AC will have the authority to make suggestions and furnish guidance to the FMT and the FRC and the FMT will report all actions taken by the FMT directly to the Chair of the AC.
- 2) What "markers" and/or bench marks will be used to determine success or failure of the success of the FRC?

### **Answer:**

- a) Income, future reservations, becoming financially sustainable.
- b) Keeping operating expenses down
- c) Reducing personnel based on actual need
- d) Changing from a "camping"/retreat facility to a "Ministry/Mission "facility of the PSL
- e) Following the role of the AC to help guide, support and promote the FRC

### **What is the role of the AC?**

- 1) To help make sure that funds are available so that the FRC is sustainable
- 2) To help the FRC become a "Mission and Ministry" of the PSL
- 3) To help the FRC move into an independent 501c3. (Note: AS long as the FRC is owned by the PSL, the PSL is liable for any law suits etc that may occur. A 501c3 will leave all liability to the FRC.

- 4) To help determine the most economic number of personnel needed to manage the facility. (note; for most facilities like the FRC, about 50% of the income should be adequate to manage the facility)
- 5) Help develop a budget that is based on both past income as well as planned future income. New programs must be developed that will attract new customers. (suggestion-invite school bands and other new groups to the facility. **See the list later in this report.**)
- 6) AC should be kept informed of income and reservations at least monthly.
- 7) Missional should be the driving force of the FRC. The AC should be driving the "Mission" of the FRC.
- 8) Question: How does the AC and FMT develop Mission and income financing? If the FRC stays in the middle of the road for mission without inviting other groups to be welcome, it will lead to closing. This can only be done after becoming sustainable with the Mission development. Better promotion and advertising of the FRC must be done by the AC, FMT, the PSL and the FRC in order to survive.

## **CHANGING FROM A "CAMP/RETREAT CENTER" TO A "MISSION/MINISTRY" CENTER**

- 1) Work with the YAV and others who work similarly
- 2) Develop several youth camps (more than the present "Camp Agape")
- 3) Carry out a specific Mission program, then celebrate the event with a meal or something like another celebrating activity.
- 4) Carry out a specific program/activity with former Camp Agape participants/attendees extending back at least three (3) years or longer.
- 5) Develop a ministry that involves the entire PSL The AC should help promote this idea.

### **OTHER COMMENTS: Promote the main facilities that are used most**

- 1) The Lodge
- 2) The Log Cabin-promote this facility for use by family reunions and other smaller groups, where a smaller number can help financially, especially during the week days. Give special rates during the week when there are fewer customers. If group spends the night on Friday night as a customer, allow them to stay another night free and have them serve as an "advisory committee".
- 3) The cottages- Promote these for use by youths (this done now)
- 4) Develop a "youth" advisory committee
- 5) Promote the meeting rooms more, to help generate more income when possible.
- 6) Camping area: These facilities are used only once or twice each year, so don't spend much time or effort promoting these facilities. Air conditioning more of the camping cabins would be of significant help in getting these used more often. However, the bathrooms are not acceptable and would be too expensive to justify remodeling.

**Present computer in the FRC needs to be updated badly.** It needs to be capable of assisting in marketing whereby it would send out reminders to present day and former customers would

1 receive notices of appreciation a welcome to come back. Paper trails are inadequate this  
2 day and time. A more knowledgeable computer operator would also be of help.

3 **Web page needs updating badly.** Up to date availability and costs should be on the web  
4 page regularly allowing potential customers to know what to expect when making plans for a  
5 retreat or another function.

6 In cooperating the FRC into a 501c3 is a must in order to protect the PSL. This should be a  
7 priority of the AC and the FMT.

## 8 **SUGGESTIONS FOR POTENTIAL NEW CUSTOMERS AND RETAINING "OLD" CUSTOMERS OF THE FRC**

- 9 1) Develop programs for "hunger" group leaders with the hungry
- 10 2) Promote the use of the facility for "disaster" groups to use
- 11 3) Develop use by multi-cultural groups
- 12 4) Work with Wildlife and Fisheries Dept for help with outdoor sports
- 13 5) Get help from sporting goods sales companies
- 14 6) Visit Camp Ferncliff in Ark for advice
- 15 7) Visit Camp in Ga to get advice
- 16 8) Work with small groups together to make up a group large enough to be profitable for  
17 the FRC
- 18 9) Keep in contact with customers immediately after their visit
- 19 10) Communicate with past customers letting them know we still value their business
- 20 11) Improve FRC leadership by extra training and new leadership
- 21 12) Look for new resources including grants and gifts-Don't be bashful about asking for help
- 22 13) Reach out for new programs and ideas-FMT, AC and the PSL should all be on the look-  
23 out for help.

24 Develop new Bench marks" for the FRC

25 Develop a new "vision" for the FRC

26 FMT must be more active in managing the FRC

27 Marketing the FRC is the responsibility of the FMT, AC and the FRC itself

## 28 **IMPORTANCE OF THE "BELL CURVE" AND WHERE THE FRC STANDS ON THIS CURVE**

29 When any organization begins to move to the down-side of the Bell Curve, something must be  
30 done so that the organization does not continue on the down-ward side of the curve.

- 31 1) Must do something "new"; not a "better old". Look around and see what can be cut  
32 out and what can replace it. Changes must be made. New programs and ideas must  
33 be initiated. **WHERE IS THE FRC ON THIS CURVE?**
- 34 2) Move "mission and ministry" to the fore-front, but retain the old customers especially until  
35 the "mission and ministry" can become the driving force
- 36 3) The FRC is no longer a "camp/retreat" full time, but it must be friendly to other customers  
37 including other Christians, businesses, schools and special interest customers

## 38 **SIMON SENEK REVIEW**

- 39 1) **Why** do we do something? **Not WHAT** do we do?



- 1) Must be a very firm **BELIVER** in **WHY** the FRC exists
- 2) Mission statement must be specific-**an ACTUAL WHY**. The word “solution should not be in the mission statement.
- 3)
- 4) What do we, the FMT,AC and the FRC, **really believe** in addressing the FRC?
- 5) WE must put on our “**DISCIPLE OF JESUS CHRIST HAT**; take off our own church/FRC . hat.
- 6) All should be known for **who they are, not what they do**.

#### 7 **QUESTION:**

- 8 1) What opportunities for ministry aligns our mission statement? **Why?**
- 9 2) What kind of “**Center for mission/ministry**” is the FRC and the PSL called to create?

#### 10 **SUGGESTIONS:**

- 11 1) Mission camps
- 12 2) Art Camps
- 13 3) AS convention/retreat
- 14 4) Band camps
- 15 5) Salvation Army Conference
- 16 6) Hunter safety educational camps
- 17 7) Pre-marital camps
- 18 8) Silent retreat functions
- 19 9) Chamber of Commerce events
- 20 10) Music festivals
- 21 11) Disaster groups
- 22 12) Other “star gazer” groups

23 The above list is a start of possibilities; the FMT, AC and the FRC need to look further into other  
24 possibilities. We must pick out **what the FRC Can do** list and promote these.

25 Create a “**SERVICE DAY**”. **A day when volunteers come in to help with needed work at the FRC.**  
26 **This function should be PSL wide.**

#### 27 **WHAT IS THE “DRIVING FORCE” FOR THE FRC?**

- 28 1) Economics
- 29 2) Ministry
- 30 3) Mission

#### 31 **QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED**

- 32 1) Who will lead the entire process?
- 33 2) Who will hold the FRC accountable?
- 34 3) Who will keep up with the process to make things happen?
- 35 4) Who will determine new staff needs/staff replacements
- 36 5) How can costs of operation be reduced?

37 NEW NAME FOR THE FRC? “**FELICIANA CENTER FOR MISSION AND MINISTRY**”. May be possible  
38 after the FRC becomes sustainable. Other customers must be welcome, unless the PSL is willing  
39 to assist financially or other means of support becomes available.

40

**TENTATIVE CHANGES IN WORK ASSIGNMENTS AT FRC  
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 28<sup>TH</sup>, 2016**

Rev Ted Roeling, Dave Snyder and Jack Bagent met with the entire staff at the FRC including the following: Dominick Turner, Linda Bergeron (Sissy), Linda Bobo, Brenda Morris, Melanie Johnson (Mel) and Ida Sharp.

**SIGNIFICANT CHANGES AT THE FRC**

- 1) IDA SHARP ASKED TO BE RELIEVED OF HER FRC DUTIES ON JANUARY 31, 2017. WE COMPLIED
- 2) BRENDA T. MORRIS AGREED TO TAKE ON MORE OFFICE RESPONSIBILITIES AND LINDA BERGERON AGREED TO ASSIST, BOTH IN THE OFFICE FILING AND PROCESSING ACCOUNTS PAYABLE AND IN ASSISTING WITH RESERVATIONS. FRC CELL PHONES WILL BE SET TO RING AT FRC FIRST THEN AFTER 3 TO 4 RINGS, IF NOT ANSWERED, IT WILL ROTATE TO THE FRC CELL PHONE WHERE BRENDA MORRIS WILL ANSWER .
- 3) MELANIE JOHNSON (MEL) AGREED TO TAKE ON THE RESPONSIBILITIES IN THE KITCHEN, HOUSE CLEANING, BED MAKING ETC. LINDA BOBO WILL ASSIST MEL
- 4) ALL AGREED TO ASSIST WHERE EVER THERE IS NEED AT THE TIME.
- 5) DOMINICK TURNER WILL CONTINUE TO ASSIST BOTH INSIDE AND OUTSIDE AS NEEDED.
- 6) THESE ARE SIX EMPLOYEES PRESENTLY AT THE FRC, WITH ONLY FIVE AFTER IDA SHARP RESIGNS JAN31, 2017. IF TEMPORARY HELP IS NEEDED, ESPECIALLY IN THE KITCHEN AND HOUSE CLEANING, THEY CAN HIRE AS NEEDED. THER ARE PRESENTLY 3 PERSONS WHO ARE TEMPORARY EMPLOYEES WHO WILL SERVE AS NEEDED
- 7) THE FMT WILL WORK WITH THESE EMPLOYEES FOR THE NEXT COUPLE OF MONTHS UNTIL A FULL-TIME ADMINISTRAROR/DIRECTOR CAN BE HIRED.

We first met as a group and discussed the situation at the FRC with the short staff and budget problems. We ask all to be aware of the budget situation and that the FRC must balance the budget each month/year and have enough carry-over from one month to the next to be "sustainable", i.e. to be able to pay bills and wages from month to month. There will be no funds from any other source. If the income is not enough to cover expenses, it will mean closing the FRC. All of the FRC staff appeared to fully understand the situation.

The personnel situation was then discussed "as a group" including the additional responsibilities of each and that all would need to work as a team

The use of volunteers was discussed and ways to use the volunteers and the importance of volunteers in helping to meet budget short-falls. Several ways to use volunteers was discussed and Dominick made several suggestions as to things that volunteers could do. WE ask Dominick to help where ever there was a need whether inside or outside. Dominick has an excellent attitude.

Dave, Ted and myself then met with the staff one on one in some instances and met with three who said they would like to meet together (Brenda Morris, Linda Bobo and Linda Bergeron). After meeting with the three together, we then met with Brenda independently. Brenda discussed her working back-ground and experiences in previous employments.

1 After listening to Mel Johnson describe her responsibilities at the FRC and what she thought she  
2 could manage, we asked her to take over the responsibilities of the kitchen including food  
3 ordering, purchasing and preparing the food and to also be responsible for house cleaning  
4 bed making etc. This is the former responsibilities of Emily Anderson. Mel has been Emily's  
5 assistant in these responsibilities and she was confident that she can handle the situation.

6 WE then met with Brenda Morris, Linda Bobo and Linda Bergeron together. Linda had previously  
7 agreed to help with reservations both at her home and at the office. The cell phone at the FRC  
8 will be set to ring at the FRC first and after about three rings, it will rotate to the FRC cell phone  
9 and Brenda Morris will answer and she will be set up to make reservations. In an effort to get  
10 more "cross training", Linda Bergeron can do some "spread-sheet work on the computer as  
11 well as filing in the office. She will also be trained to do some reservation work.

12 Brenda Morris agreed to take on more responsibilities in the office other than the Excel, and  
13 spread sheet work, which she presently assists with. She would be responsible for much of the  
14 present office work, but with help from Linda Bergeron and with Mel Johnson taking care of the  
15 other in-house work, we thought that Brenda and the others could take care of the office work  
16 until a full-time Administrator/Director can be hired.

17 Brenda Morris has worked as an administrative secretary for a large company (Rollins) and has  
18 considerable experience in office work. She is experienced in company policy, procedures,  
19 has worked with sales people and has worked closely with senior level management. This gave  
20 us reason to think she can take care of the office management.

21 Other topics discussed included working with ATT to see if the FRC can either get a "tower"  
22 located close or at least work with us to get better cell phone service. Also, it was discussed  
23 and recommended by the group to get all staff doing some cross training for different jobs at  
24 the FRC when possible. The extended use of volunteers and some of the jobs they can do,  
25 were discussed with several suggestions being made including painting of the Hill House,  
26 working with the sewer problem at the Hill House (Dominick Turner has taken care of this  
27 problem), picking up limbs etc in the roads and trails, painting steps at the cottages mowing,  
28 working on equipment, repairing the oven in the kitchen and others. ) Dave Snyder agreed to  
29 look in to the oven problem). A note about volunteers-Buff Slaton and Jack Bagent will meet  
30 shortly and plan a "Service Day" at the FRC in early spring.

31 All employees were asked to provide a Resume so that we could determine what other  
32 training, education and abilities they may possess.

33 Set times and the amount of time taken both for lunch and for breaks in morning and  
34 afternoon were set so that the FRC is not paying for an hour or so of a lunch or three or four  
35 breaks each day. This was discussed as an existing problem with some of the present staff.

36 Ida was asked to allow both Mel Johnson and Brenda Morris to carry out their responsibilities  
37 without interruptions. Ida agreed to continue to assist in the preparation of Brenda Morris and  
38 Linda Bergeron in the office work as she has been doing in the past few weeks.

39 All of these changes will have to be approved by the FMT and the PSL Personnel Committee.

40

# PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

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1

2

3 While there has been progress on a draft policy to protect children, youth, adult  
4 leaders and the Presbytery from harassment and other forms of harm, it is not ready  
5 for council action. A 40-plus page templet was supplied by the denomination's  
6 liability carrier. Personnel and Youth Committee members found it too broad in  
7 scope and too detailed for our purposes. The first redraft proved to still be unwieldy  
8 and difficult to explain to volunteer leaders. We believe in the necessity to  
9 communicate without intimidating. A more user-friendly draft is in process.

10

11 The Personnel Committee is in consultation with the Youth Committee and the FRC  
12 Board on employee policy matters which undoubtedly are covered in their reports.

13

14 Submitted,

15 Dave White

16

17

# 1 CONGREGATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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## 2 **Congregational Development Committee**

3 **December 6, 2016**

4 The Congregational Development Committee met on Tuesday, December 6 at 2pm at the  
5 Church of the Way in Baton Rouge, LA.

6 **Members Present:** Barry Chance, Dale Tullier, & Tim Ruppel

7 **Members Not Present:** Donna Gay Anderson, David Garland, Dick Krajewski, Leslie Mansell,  
8 Martha Robson, & Tom Tucker

9 **Also Present:** Layne Brubaker & Ron Sutto

10  
11 The meeting was opening in prayer by the Rev. Barry Chance who called the meeting to order  
12 in the absence of a chairperson. He explained that he had declined the nominating  
13 committee's request to serve a chair person but had agreed to call this meeting and  
14 moderate a discussion on the purpose and nature of the committee. While the nominating  
15 committee has elected three new members, none were present at the meeting so committee  
16 orientation was skipped.

## 17 18 **Transformation Sub-Committee**

19 The committee has two continuing Salary Matching Grants at Faith Presbyterian Church in  
20 Harvey and Northminster Presbyterian Church in Pearl River. Both are up for renewal and the  
21 renewal committees have been asked to meet with the sessions and report back. First  
22 Presbyterian Church in New Orleans had been receiving a salary matching grant; however, in  
23 the absence of their pastor that grant has been terminated.

## 24 25 **New Worshipping Communities**

26 The presbytery has one New Worshipping Community, Okra Abby, which is located in New  
27 Orleans under the leadership of Vincent Grossi and funded by several different grants. Layne  
28 Brubaker reported that the Okra Abbey is flourishing and the ministry Grace and Greens is  
29 serving and hosting more and more people every week! Layne also reported that the business  
30 of church planting is a "stepping out in faith" experience and can be scary and daunting at  
31 times. Layne stated that having a structure of support (a group of people caring and checking  
32 in) at the Presbytery level would be helpful for the Okra Abbey and future New Worshipping  
33 Communities in PSL.

1 **Core Questions**

2 The committee discussed the challenges and sense of stagnation facing the committee.  
3 Amongst those challenges is the loss of members. When the presbytery formed the committee,  
4 no class rotation was established so a number of members served for an extended period of  
5 time. The committee has lost members to burnout and change of call and is preparing to lose  
6 several more to class rotation which was implemented several years ago. Shortly before this  
7 meeting, the Rev. Martha Robson resigned for the committee. Donna Gay Anderson & the Rev.  
8 Barry Chance have both expressed an interest in resigning to focus on other work within the  
9 presbytery. Of the remaining members, two are preparing to rotate off at the end of 2016 and  
10 cannot return because of term limits. There was a general sense amongst those present that  
11 the committee had lost its focus and something needed to be done to address that.

12 The presbytery by-laws establish that the committee has two subcommittees (Church  
13 Transformation and New Church Development). However, the committee has functioned  
14 largely as a committee-of-the-whole for several years and focused primarily on the tasks of the  
15 Church Transformation Subcommittee. The last major transformation project, the New  
16 Beginnings assessments, are now complete and not new initiatives have been proposed in over  
17 year.

18 The New Church Development Subcommittee has met once a year for the last three years and  
19 has not had a chair since its last chair retired and moved out of the bounds of the presbytery.  
20 The committee's most recent accomplishment is the approval and funding of a new  
21 worshipping community (now called Okra Abby), the primary work for which was generated  
22 out of the Young Adult Volunteer Program and not the committee. There seems to be  
23 significant excitement about Okra Abby and potential for the development of other new  
24 communities within the presbytery that could help revitalize existing congregations or develop  
25 into new ones.

26 It was the general consensus of those present that the structure of the committee with two sub-  
27 committees was not working and has not been working for some time. Given the general lack  
28 of energy and direction within the committee, the group recommends that the council take  
29 the following actions:

30

- 31 1. Dissolve the Congregational Development Committee and amend the by-laws and
- 32 Salary Matching Grant accordingly
- 33 2. Give the Committee on Ministry oversight of the Salary Matching Grants
- 34 3. Form a New Worshipping Communities Committee to provide oversight and support for
- 35 Okra Abby and support the development of other new worshipping communities
- 36 throughout the presbytery.
- 37

38 **Proposed Changes the By-Laws:**

- 39 1. Strike the text of 5-1A2 and replace it with New Worshipping Communities Committee
- 40 2. Strike 10-1C and re-letter 10-1D as 10-1C.
- 41 3. Strike the current text of 10-2 and replace it with the following:
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10-2 NEW WORSHIPPING COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

10-2A. The Presbytery shall elect a New Worshipping Communities Committee to encourage the formation of new worshipping communities and support existing communities in the Presbytery of South Louisiana.

10-2B. Membership of this committee shall consist of at least six members with at least one representative from each of the four regions of the Presbytery, as defined by the Committee on Ministry. Each new worshipping community will send a representative to the committee who will serve *ex-officio* unless also elected by the presbytery. The General Presbyter shall serve *ex-officio* on the committee.

10-2C. The committee shall be divided into three classes of as equal number as possible. Terms shall ordinarily be for three years. Members who have served six consecutive years will be ineligible to serve for one year.

10-2D. The committee shall serve the Presbytery in accordance with these Bylaws, Manual of Operations, and the *Book of Order*.

1 **Proposed Changes to the Salary Matching Grant**

2 See the attached document. Text to be moved are shown with ~~strike-through~~; text to be  
3 added is shown in *italics*.]

4 PRESBYTERY OF SOUTH LOUISIANA

5 SALARY MATCHING GRANTS

6 ~~A Program of the Church Transformation Subcommittee~~  
7 ~~Of the Church Development Committee~~  
8 ~~In cooperation with the Committee on Ministry~~

9  
10  
11 *THE GREAT COMMISSION: "And Jesus came to them and said, 'All authority in heaven and on*  
12 *earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in*  
13 *the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey*  
14 *everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the*  
15 *age.'"* (Matthew 28:18-20)

16  
17 HISTORY: A Matching Grant Program for Financial Pastoral Support was approved by  
18 Presbytery in 2009. The Committee on Ministry was assigned to administer the program and  
19 \$120,000 was dedicated from Church Development Funds for this program. On February 28,  
20 2012, Presbytery approved establishing a separate restricted fund and delegated  
21 administration of the Salary Matching Grant Program to the Church Transformation  
22 Subcommittee in cooperation with the Committee on Ministry. *On [insert date] the*  
23 *Congregational Development Committee was dissolved and the program was returned to the*  
24 *administration of the Committee on Ministry.*

25 The PURPOSE of this program is to ensure that significant help can be given to congregations  
26 who are engaged in an intentional program of revitalization and transformation. This includes  
27 financial support in the form of matching salary grants. The primary qualification for the grant  
28 will be the development and implementation of a concrete plan to fulfill the Great Commission  
29 in the area in which God has planted that congregation.

30 In establishing the grant, Presbytery stated: "It is imperative that all congregations who apply  
31 not only express a willingness to work for growth in two dimensions, spiritual and numerical, but  
32 be able to share past experiences indicating their commitment to such. ***The intent of this***  
33 ***Matching Grant Program is not to maintain the status quo of a smaller membership church as it***  
34 ***continues its former practices, but [to offer assistance] based on its commitment to be a Great***  
35 ***Commission Church, willing to do the hard work of growth.***" (emphasis added)

36 AMOUNT OF MATCHING GRANTS: Through this program, the Presbytery will Share the cost of a  
37 full-time Teaching Elder (Minister) up to a maximum of one half (1/2) of the minimum effective  
38 salary required by Presbytery. As of January 1, 2014, Presbytery minimum effective salary (salary  
39 plus housing allowance or manse value) is \$35,000; therefore the maximum annual grant is  
40 \$17,500. Grants will be determined on a case-by-case basis; the amount of the grant will be  
41 based on an assessment of need.



1 ~~PRESBYTERY ASSISTANCE: More information about Transformation can be found in the~~  
2 ~~descriptive brochure, which is available from the chairperson, Rev. John Blewitt, or the~~  
3 ~~Presbytery Office. Members of the Subcommittee are available to assist congregations in~~  
4 ~~developing plans for renewal and preparing grant applications. The first step in applying for~~  
5 ~~the grant is to contact Rev. Blewitt and arrange for a liaison/coach from the Subcommittee.~~

6  
7 ELIGIBILITY: Participation in the program is intended for churches with membership of 100 or  
8 less.

9 DURATION OF THE PROGRAM: Grants can be renewed twice, for a maximum of three years  
10 (five years if calling a Transformational Pastor). The process for renewal is described below.

11 APPLICATION: The heart of the application is a narrative statement of the congregation's plans  
12 for renewal. It is important that the congregation is on board with and fully committed to this  
13 vision of redevelopment, revitalization and transformation. The narrative statement should  
14 include a summary of the congregation's discussion of the following questions, including the  
15 date(s) of the gathering(s) when the discussion(s) took place. It is important that a member or  
16 members of ~~the Transformation Subcommittee~~, the Review Committee, or the church's COM  
17 liaison attend these gatherings. ~~Please contact Rev. Blewitt to arrange for this representation.~~

- 18 a. How do you plan to deepen the spiritual life and commitment of the congregation?  
19 (25%)
- 20 b. How do you plan to listen to the needs of the local community outside your  
21 congregation? In what ways does the congregation participate in the life of the wider  
22 community and regional area? (20%)
- 23 c. Has the congregation discussed the ramifications and risks of change? What risks will the  
24 congregation face as you move toward transformation? (20%)
- 25 d. What are your three most important mission priorities? What are your financial priorities  
26 for next year? (10%)
- 27 e. If you receive a grant, what will you be able to do that you can't do now? (10%)
- 28 f. Who will be guiding this process? Describe the leadership team for the renewal process.  
29 Please include list of names and the length of their relationship with the church. How are  
30 they each involved in the overall life of the church? (5%)
- 31 g. In one phrase, express the congregation's vision for the future. (5%)
- 32 h. How often will you evaluate your progress? What do you expect to have occurred by  
33 the end of the first year of the renewal process? Do you have both quantitative and  
34 qualitative goals? How will you know if you have succeeded? (5%)

35 (If this application is part of the process of calling a new pastor, these answers may be part of  
36 the Mission Study, however it is still vitally important that the congregation has fully discussed  
37 and committed itself to the process.)

38 BACKGROUND INFORMATION: In addition to the narrative statement, please include the  
39 following background information:

- 40 • STEWARDSHIP: Churches must show evidence of a stewardship plan, including  
41 education and solicitation of financial gifts. Describe last year's stewardship campaign.  
42 What are your goals for next year? How do plan to develop the congregation's  
43 understanding of and commitment to financial and material discipleship? Include  
44 statistical information on changes in per family income and giving.

- 1 • USE OF CONGREGATIONAL FUNDS AND FINANCIAL DATA: Churches are expected to  
2 use their available reserves to support their renewal plan. Churches must show evidence  
3 of all income sources. If the church has endowment or reserve funds, please identify  
4 which ones are restricted and for what purpose, and if the restriction was established by  
5 the donor or by the Session. Does the Session have policies controlling the investment  
6 and/or release of reserve funds?
  - 7 1. Financial reports for the last three years, including a detailed outline showing all  
8 receipts and disbursements.
  - 9 2. Complete disclosure of ALL existing funds, designated or undesignated, including  
10 reserves and endowment funds.
  - 11 3. Proposed budget for the next calendar year, including projected income (from all  
12 sources) and projected disbursements, including denominational support.
  - 13 4. Proposed Terms of Call for the Pastor for the grant year.
- 14 • DENOMINATIONAL MISSION SUPPORT: As Presbyterians, we understand that all mission  
15 belongs to Christ and is shared by the church as a whole. We support each other in  
16 mission through prayer and mutual encouragement, sharing of resources, and the giving  
17 of money. Churches receiving matching grant funds are expected to budget for  
18 financial support of Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly. This support is in addition  
19 to the per capita apportionment, and it includes shared mission, and special offering  
20 contributions. Since the Session, through its institutional giving, establishes the model for  
21 members in their individual giving, it is suggested that Sessions work towards the goal of  
22 at least 10% of the total budget in mission support.
- 23 • VIABILITY: Please include a summary of demographic information about your  
24 community, such as age, income, type of household, educational level, and other  
25 factors you feel are relevant. In what ways is your community growing? In what ways is  
26 it shrinking? Realistically, can your community support a Presbyterian church with  
27 average worship attendance of 75 or more? If not, is there a need for a "niche" ministry  
28 in your region?
- 29 • If this application is part of calling a new Pastor, please attach the "Mission Study"  
30 portion of the Church Information Form.

31 PROCEDURE: Application shall be submitted to the ~~Church Transformation Subcommittee~~  
32 *Committee on Ministry* by the Session of the Church requesting a grant. The Clerk of Session  
33 shall be the contact for the application and shall attest to all submitted material

34 REVIEW: A Review Committee will receive and review applications. The composition of this  
35 committee shall not include anyone intimately connected with the requesting congregation,  
36 and shall be:

- 37 ~~1. At least two members of the Church Transformation Subcommittee.~~
- 38 2. A member of the Finance Committee.
- 39 3. The Committee on Ministry Liaison for the applying church.
- 40 4. A Two members-at-large selected to represent Presbytery.

41 The General Presbyter and Treasurer shall serve as Advisory Members. The review committee  
42 shall elect its own Moderator and Clerk.

43 CALLING A PASTOR: The grant application may be for an installed pastor or a pastor to be  
44 called. If for calling a pastor, it is anticipated that the pastor being called should *ordinarily*:

- 1 1. Be ordained as a Teaching Elder in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).
- 2 2. Have served in at least one call where there has been evidence of spiritual and/or
- 3 numerical growth.
- 4 3. Demonstrate by his/her continuing education an interest in church redevelopment,
- 5 revitalization, and transformation.
- 6 4. Be willing to risk not only the challenge of accepting a call, but the inherent
- 7 challenges in accepting a call in a smaller membership church struggling financially.

8 It is expected that the ~~CDC Transformation Subcommittee~~ *Committee on Ministry* will work  
9 cooperatively with the Pastor Nominating Committee throughout the process.

- 10 • A liaison to the PNC will be appointed by the ~~Church Transformation Subcommittee~~  
11 *Review Committee*.
- 12 • The liaison will orient the PNC to understanding the differences among transformation,  
13 church growth, and congregational maintenance. The liaison will also familiarize the  
14 PNC with the steps in transformation and with the process of working with the  
15 ~~Subcommittee~~ *Review Committee* through the life of the Salary Matching Grant.
- 16 • The ~~CDC Subcommittee~~ *Review Committee* will review and recommend changes to the  
17 MIF. The MIF must be approved by the ~~CDC Transformation Subcommittee~~ *Review*  
18 *Committee* before it is submitted to COM for its approval. The ~~CDC Transformation~~  
19 ~~Subcommittee~~ *Review Committee* will work with the Committee on Ministry to vet  
20 applicants before consideration by the PNC, and the ~~CDC Transformation~~  
21 ~~Subcommittee~~ *Review Committee* will participate in the "fit" interview with the COM  
22 Regional Team. A candidate must be approved by both the *Review Committee*  
23 ~~Transformation Subcommittee~~ and COM. Part of this conversation will be directed by the  
24 congregation's written plan for renewal.

25  
26 APPROVAL AND NOTIFICATION: Applications are received and reviewed on an on-going basis.  
27 Each application is evaluated on its own merits, not in competition with any other  
28 congregation. The Review Committee shall make recommendation to the ~~CDC Transformation~~  
29 ~~Subcommittee~~ *which shall meet as a whole to Committee on Ministry* which shall approve or  
30 disapprove each grant application. The COM *Liaison Chair* of the ~~CDC Transformation~~  
31 ~~Subcommittee~~ shall notify the applicant church of the results. Should conditional approval be  
32 granted, it shall be the responsibility of the applicant church to satisfy the conditions prior to  
33 receiving any funding. The Chair of the *Committee on Ministry* ~~CDC Transformation~~  
34 ~~Subcommittee~~ shall notify the Treasurer of approved grants who shall provide the funds as  
35 stipulated in the grant (amount, start date, phased or annual payment, accountability, etc.)

36 ONGOING RELATIONSHIP: The process of Church Transformation can be deeply challenging for  
37 both congregations and pastors. It is expected that a Coach, approved by the COM ~~CDC~~  
38 ~~Transformation Subcommittee~~, will remain in contact with the church to provide counsel,  
39 mentoring, and resources as needed.

40  
41 RENEWAL OF MATCHING GRANTS: After six-months, the Session will meet with representatives of  
42 the Review Committee to assess progress toward the goals identified in the application and  
43 provide additional coaching as needed. At the end of the year, members of the Review  
44 Committee will gather with the congregation to discuss the changes and challenges of the  
45 transformation process. If it is determined that funding will not be renewed, funding will be

1 extended for six months as severance. Each annual renewal is evaluated separately on a case-  
2 by-case basis. Congregations are eligible to receive a matching grant for up to three  
3 consecutive years (five years if calling a Transformational Pastor); renewals will ordinarily be at a  
4 lower level than earlier grants. To apply for a renewal, the Session is asked to provide a written  
5 report on their progress toward:

- 6 • New Initiatives to open dialogue with the community, an increase in the amount of time  
7 members spend volunteering in the community
- 8 • New initiatives to cultivate spiritual growth within the congregation
- 9 • Increase in the level of stewardship through the use of new resources, adoption of a new  
10 model, congregational education, or other revision of the stewardship campaign. If  
11 necessary, the *Review Team* ~~GDC Transformation Subcommittee~~ will provide financial  
12 coaching to help develop a mission-focused budget

13  
14  
15 **For more information, please contact the Presbytery office at (225) 275-1242 or Rev. John Blewitt**  
16 **at (225) 275-2393 or [johnfpc@bellsouth.net](mailto:johnfpc@bellsouth.net). Completed applications should be sent to the chair**  
17 **of the Committee on Ministry the Presbytery office: 12909 Old Hammond Highway, Baton Rouge**  
18 **LA 70816.**

19

Checklist for Matching Grant Application

1

2 \_\_\_\_ Date of first meeting of Committee Liaison with Session \_\_\_\_\_

3 \_\_\_\_ Narrative statement, including

4 — Date of congregational gathering to discuss renewal process \_\_\_\_\_

5 — Plan to deepen congregational spiritual life

6 — Plan to listen/participate with community

7 — Summary of congregational discussion of ramifications and risks of change

8 — Three most important financial priorities; three most important mission priorities

9 — What will you do that you can't do now?

10 — Vision for the future

11 — Who will be guiding the process?

12 — How will you evaluate your progress?

13 \_\_\_\_ Background information, including

14 — Description of stewardship plan

15 — Financial reports for last three years

16 — Listing of all funds, including endowment, building funds, and reserves

17 — Proposed budget for next calendar year

18 — Proposed Terms of Call for the Pastor for the grant year

19 — Evidence of mission support (not including per capita assessment)

20 • Shared mission giving to PCUSA agencies (list, with amount)

21 • Special offerings to PCUSA (list, with amount)

22 • Mission giving to other church and community agencies (list, with amount)

23 • Special offerings for other church and community needs (list, with amount)

24 — Demographic information

25 — "Mission Study" portion of *Ministry Church* Information Form (If calling a new Pastor)

26 \_\_\_\_ Date of Session meeting on which Grant Application was approved \_\_\_\_\_

27

1 Information for the Review Committee

2 The purpose of this grant is to assist congregations in making major changes in the way they  
3 follow the leading of the Holy Spirit and fulfill the Great Commission. By supporting them in  
4 paying the cost of a full-time pastor, resources will be freed up to finance new mission  
5 initiatives. In order for this process to be effective, the congregation cannot continue to do  
6 "business as usual"; instead they must develop a new approach to expressing their faith and  
7 engaging with their community.

8 The major part of the application is the narrative section. The questions are weighted to  
9 indicate the relative importance of each. Both in this section and in the background  
10 information, some questions are included to ensure that important issues have been raised in a  
11 congregational setting and that plans have been made to accommodate the process of  
12 transformation. We do not expect the congregation to have "arrived," however; we only  
13 expect them to have seriously undertaken the journey.

14 In reviewing the application, please keep the following factors in mind:

- 15 • Openness to change and to the leading of the Holy Spirit
- 16 • Demonstrable commitment to personal and congregational transformation
- 17 • Reality of risk
- 18 • Congruence of vision, mission and finances
- 19 • Openness to coach and process
- 20 • Coach's assessment
- 21 • Viability

22 In addition, the timing of the grant should be considered. Since a grant can be given for only  
23 three years, and since the amount of the grant is expected to decrease over the three years, it  
24 is important that the grant be given at the time that it will have the greatest impact on the  
25 congregation's life. For this reason, the grant should be made at the time that the  
26 congregation is ready to begin its project, not during the time that the congregation is  
27 engaged in study or project development. It is expected that the Transformation  
28 Subcommittee will be supporting the congregation throughout the entire process, and  
29 significant help will be given during this very important preparatory phase.

30 After a decision has been made as to whether or not a congregation should receive a grant,  
31 the following factors should be used to determine the amount of the grant:

- 32 • Size of the annual budget
- 33 • Existence and willingness to use additional funds
- 34 • The overall balance of the giving distribution
- 35 • Cost of the transformation project
- 36 • The extent to which the cost of the pastor's salary plus the cost of the transformation  
37 project exceed the available resources (from all sources)

38 If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the congregation's coach/liaison or the  
39 Chairperson of the Committee on Ministry of the Transformation Subcommittee, Rev. John  
40 Blewitt, at (225) 275-2393 or [johnfpc@bellsouth.net](mailto:johnfpc@bellsouth.net).

# COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY

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## COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY REPORT TO PRESBYTERY

### Preliminary Report - for Council meeting January 17, 2017

Class of 2017: RE Pete Alleman; RE Jack Bagent; RE Al Barron; RE Loretta Credo; TE Don Frampton; RE Chuck Morton; TE Chan Willis

Class of 2018: RE Donna Stogner, Moderator; RE Margaret Boone; TE Peggy Brown; TE Harry Brown; TE Barry Chance; CRE Jane Conerly; RE Aaron Steele

Class of 2019: RE Marilyn Dunn, Clerk; CRE Jerry Egbert, Vice Moderator; TE Betsy Irvine; RE Beth Paskoff; RE Pat Sharpe; CRE Glenda Keegan

The Committee on Ministry met November 19, 2017. The next meeting is January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2017. The area teams meet face to face or by email and conference in the alternate months when the whole committee does not meet.

**Action required:** There are no items needing a vote by Council.

The attached Family Leave Policy will be submitted to Presbytery for approval. GA has mandated having such a policy and we agree that the need is there.

The request to add to the commission of CRE Nanette Cagney to allow her to preside over the Sacrament of Communion at other PCUSA churches and other PSL events will be submitted for approval.

The agreement between Parkway PC and St. Charles Avenue PC for Rev. Tom Paine to serve as Parish Associate to SCAPC for 25% of his time was approved.

Respectfully Submitted, Donna Stogner, Moderator

2  
3 **Presbytery of South Louisiana**  
4 **Family Leave Policy**

5  
6 **I. Theological Grounding**

7 God created us to be in relationship with one another, to care for one another, and to  
8 participate in families. We are required to honor our father and mother, and to care for  
9 our children and kin. Thus provision is made when a minister needs to be absent from  
10 work in order to care for both self and family.

11  
12 **II. Purpose**

- 13 A. To provide Sessions and other employing agencies minimum standards for a pastor's  
14 family leave to be included in all call packages. It is anticipated that individual  
15 churches and employers will not feel limited by these guidelines, and will respond to  
16 the need for family leave responsibly and generously.
- 17 B. To ensure that ministers receive fair and equitable leave when required. It is  
18 anticipated that ministers will use this policy only when needed, and will not abuse  
19 the generosity of the church.

20  
21 **III. Individuals Covered by this Policy**

22 This policy applies to the following minister members of the Presbytery of South Louisiana  
23 as well as CREs serving congregations within the Presbytery (herein referred to as  
24 "pastor"):

- 25 • **Installed Pastors, Co-Pastors, and Associate Pastors** in a congregational setting  
26 meeting Board of Pensions minimum requirements for participation;
- 27 • **Interim Pastors and Interim Associate Pastors** in a congregational setting meeting  
28 Board of Pensions minimum requirements for participation;
- 29 • **Designated Pastors and Designated Associate Pastors** meeting Board of Pensions  
30 minimum requirements for participation;
- 31 • **Stated Supply Pastors** meeting Board of Pensions minimum requirements for  
32 participation;
- 33 • **Pastors serving in other called ministries** of the Presbytery meeting Board of Pensions  
34 minimum requirements for participation.
- 35 • **CREs** serving congregations within the Presbytery

36 **IV. Guidelines**

37 **A. Medically Certified Disability**

38 Pastors who are, according to certification of a licensed physician, temporarily  
39 disabled shall refer to the Committee on Ministry and the Board of Pensions for  
40 direction.

41 **B. Family Leave**

42 When a pastor needs to take extended leave due to the needs of a family member,  
43 the Session or appropriate employing agency shall be consulted as soon as possible.  
44 Situations that may fall under this heading include, but are not limited to, an  
45 extended hospitalization/rehabilitation, the need to place a family member in long  
46 term care, and the need to take care of family matters in the event of death. Family  
47 leave shall be up to six weeks in length, during which time the pastor shall receive full  
48 effective salary and full Pension dues. If additional leave is required, the pastor shall  
49 negotiate for such leave with the Session or appropriate employing agency with  
50 concurrence of the Committee on Ministry. A pastor may lengthen the period of  
51 family leave at his or her discretion by using accrued vacation.



1 **C. Maternity Leave**

2 When a pastor becomes pregnant, the Session or appropriate employing agency  
3 shall be consulted within 12 weeks of a physician's confirmation of the pregnancy.  
4 Maternity leave should ordinarily begin with the physician's certification that the  
5 pastor can no longer perform her duties and end when she is medically released by  
6 her physician to return to her professional duties. This is ordinarily an eight week  
7 period, during which the pastor shall receive full effective salary and full Pension  
8 dues.  
9

10 In the event of medical complications, the Session or employing agency shall be  
11 consulted and the pastor shall make arrangements for additional leave with the  
12 Session or employing agency, under the terms of the Medically Certified Disability  
13 paragraph of this section. A pastor may lengthen the period of maternity leave at  
14 her discretion by using accrued vacation.

15 **D. Paternity Leave**

16 If a pastor's spouse becomes pregnant, the pastor shall notify the Session or  
17 employing agency within 12 weeks of a physician's confirmation of the pregnancy. A  
18 request for paternity leave shall be made no later than a month before the  
19 requested leave is to begin. Paternity leave may be up to six weeks in length, during  
20 which time the pastor shall receive full effective salary and full Pension dues. If  
21 additional leave is necessary, the Session or employing agency shall be consulted  
22 and it shall be arranged under the terms of the Family Leave paragraph of this  
23 section. A pastor may lengthen the period of paternity leave at his discretion by  
24 using accrued vacation.

25 **E. Adoption Leave**

26 Recognizing that the adoption of a child requires as much of a transition as the birth  
27 of a child, a pastor who is adopting shall be granted leave commensurate with  
28 maternity or paternity leave. The time of the leave begins when the child is placed in  
29 the pastor parent's hand. If additional leave is necessary, the Session or employing  
30 agency shall be consulted and it shall be arranged under the terms of the Family  
31 Leave paragraph of his section. A pastor may lengthen the period of adoption leave  
32 at his or her discretion by using accrued vacation.

33 **F. Additional Considerations**

34 These guidelines should be considered in negotiating appropriate family leave:

- 35 1. Study leave shall not be used for family, maternity, paternity, or adoptive leave;
- 36 2. "Re-entry" may be scheduled on a full-time or part-time basis as agreed upon by  
37 pastor and session, with medical approval;
- 38 3. If a pastor initiates dissolution within one year following family, maternity,  
39 paternity, or adoption leave, any unused vacation time shall be credited against  
40 the leave;
- 41 4. Should a pastor experience a miscarriage or still birth, she/he may be given the  
42 maternity/paternity leave she/he would have received had the pregnancy been  
43 carried to term with no complications;
- 44 5. The time periods listed are intended to be an annual benefit, not to be accrued.

45 **G. Session Responsibilities during the Pastor's Leave**

46 The Session is responsible for the ongoing work of the congregation during the  
47 pastor's leave. Session should be ready to arrange and pay for pulpit supply, a  
48 Session moderator, coverage for hospital and emergency visitation and whatever  
49 teaching and programming for which the pastor was responsible. Should this  
50 become a hardship for a congregation, they may apply for assistance from the  
51 Committee on Ministry as per section V below.

52 **H. Military Leave**

1 Pastors who serve in the Military Reserves shall ordinarily settle on all details regarding  
2 their military requirements in a Mobilization Agreement as part of their terms of call.  
3 These details should include the annual two-week training period and what  
4 compensation the church will provide during that time. It is recommended that the  
5 pastor not take a cut in salary for those two weeks, so that if the military  
6 reimbursement is less than the pastor's salary, the church makes up the difference.  
7 Further information is available from the Board of Pensions.

8 **V. Assistance for Churches**

9 The Committee on Ministry will seek to provide assistance to help churches unable to  
10 meet the financial obligations outlined above in the event their pastor requires leave.  
11 This assistance is to assure that the pastor does not feel pressured to return to work  
12 prematurely and the church is able to secure sufficient pastoral care during the pastor's  
13 absence. Financial support for the church would be extended for the same time period  
14 granted for the leave, up to, but not to exceed, additional time granted by the Session  
15 or appropriate calling body for leave. Financial assistance will not be given during a  
16 pastor's use of accrued vacation. Individual sessions will apply to the Committee on  
17 Ministry when such cases arise, and each case will be judged on its own merits.

18

# PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY

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Committee on the Preparation for Ministry  
Report to Council January 2017

## **Information:**

1. The CPM continues to work with individuals who are attending seminary to become Teaching Elders and those who are in the CRE program.
2. Annual Consultations were completed for:
  - (1) Scott Crawford
  - (2) Barbara Tomek-White – her Final Assessment, she is “Ready to Receive a Call”
3. At her request, the CPM transferred (candidate) Allie Utley, Ph.D. student and Austin seminary graduate, to the care of Salem Presbytery, North Carolina.
4. On behalf of the Presbytery of South Louisiana, the CPM sent \$1,000 scholarships to our seminarians;
  - (1) Jerry Egbert – Dubuque seminary
  - (2) Colleen Earp – Union in Richmond
  - (3) Hannah Mills – Union in New York City

## **Recommendations to Presbytery:**

None

**Individuals Under Care:** The CPM asks for your prayers for these individuals:

### *Inquirers:*

Colleen Earp (Union Seminary, Richmond) also Director of Youth, Environment and Service Ministries at Camp Hanover, Presbytery of the James

Hannah Mills (Union Seminary, New York) served as a Young Adult Volunteer in New Orleans

### *Candidates:*

Elizabeth Soileau Acton (Columbia Seminary) is interested in receiving a call to the ministry. Elizabeth has a Masters in Social Work.

Scott Crawford (Princeton Seminary) is a Physician's Assistant in Pensacola, FL.

Jerry Egbert (Dubuque Seminary) serves as a CRE at First Presbyterian church in DeRidder, LA.

Jeff Ferguson (San Francisco Seminary) is working with 1001 Worshipping Communities in Boston.

Kathy Lee (Austin Seminary) and Masters of Science in Social Work from Univ. of Texas

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Charles (Chad) Wright Pittman (Columbia Seminary) City Director for DOOR in Atlanta

Lauren Wright Pittman (Columbia Seminary) An artist with 'A Sanctified Art' which provides liturgical art and graphic resources for churches, curriculums and various ministries.

Barbara Tomek-White (Austin Seminary)

*Seekers to become Commissioned Ruling Elders (CRE):*

Bob Emanuel has completed all requirements to be commissioned as a CRE.

Theresa King is an online student at Dubuque Seminary

Miriam Schulingkamp is an online student at Austin Seminary

Dale Tullier has completed all requirements to be commissioned as a CRE.

CPM members: Mary Mikell, RE, co-chair; Janie McElwee-Smith, TE, co-chair; Walter Harris, RE; Louise Kaltenbaugh, RE; Linda Kelly, TE; Dick Krajeski, TE; Rick Pitcher, TE; Judy Roeling, TE; Pam Stroup, RE.

# 1 YOUTH MINISTRY

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## 2 **Presbytery of South Louisiana**

### 3 **Youth Coordinator Report**

4 **January 17, 2017**

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6  
7 1. The Youth Advisory Board met at St. Charles Avenue Presbyterian Church met on  
8 November 3, 2016. There we discussed our goals and ideas for the PSL youth program.  
9 We collectively decided to try for a Christmas Break lock-in in December. Amy  
10 reiterated the summer trip dates as follows:

11 Camp Agape at Feliciana Retreat Center- June 4-10, 2017

12 Mo Ranch Junior High Jubilee- July 9-13, 2017

13 Montreat Senior High Session V- July 23-29, 2017

14  
15 2. On December 29, 2016, there was a PSL wide lock-in held at Covington Presbyterian  
16 Church. Amy mass emailed, mailed, called, reported in the 10/20, and used social  
17 media to promote the event. There were 11 youth and 4 adults in attendance. The  
18 youth participated in a service project where we created Manna Bags for the  
19 homeless, a devotional for the New Year, and plenty of games. Some of the favorites  
20 were sardines and hide and seek, two truths and a lie, and pew pulls. After an  
21 exhausting night full of pizza and snacks, the youth retired to their sleeping bags for a  
22 few hours of sleep.

23  
24 3. The next PSL youth event took place on Martin Luther King Jr. Day (January 16, 2017)  
25 at the J.W. Johnson Garden in New Orleans. As this report was submitted before that  
26 date, Amy can give a brief overview of the event in person.

27  
28 4. As always, the youth coordinator is open to and ideas or thoughts about the youth  
29 program and the direction in which it should be headed. If you have any ideas about  
30 a future event or if your church would like to host an event, Amy would love to hear it.

31  
32  
33 Respectfully Submitted,

34  
35 Amy Heintz

36 Youth Coordinator

37 Presbytery of South Louisiana

38 (318) 230-4235

# FLOOD RECOVERY

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## REPORT FROM THE PSL DISASTER RESPONSE TEAM (DRT)

January 4, 2017

**The members of the PSL Disaster Response Team are:** Jean Marie Peacock (Chair), Chip Chiphe, Betsy Irvine, Zach Sasser, Donna Gay Anderson, and Caroline Cottingham. Ron Sutto (ex-officio). Staff: Christina Drake

The Disaster Response Team has taken the following actions since its last report in September 2016:

1. PSL Flood Recovery has received the following donations:

October: \$25,596

November: \$29,266

December: \$24,542

TOTAL DONATIONS: \$79,404

2. All 3 of our Volunteer Hubs in Hammond, Lafayette and Baton Rouge are now operational and have volunteer teams scheduled. Each Hub includes: 1) a Host Site where volunteers receive housing and hospitality; and 2) a Work Partner that supplies project and worksite oversight, materials and instruction/supervision of volunteers on the worksites. Our partners are:

### **Hammond Hub**

Host Site – First Presbyterian Church of Hammond

Work Partner - Ginger Ford Northshore Fuller Center for Housing

### **Baton Rouge Hub**

Host Site – University Presbyterian Church

Work Partner – Rebuilding Together Baton Rouge

### **Lafayette Hub**

Host Site – First Presbyterian Church of Lafayette

Work Partner – Rebuilding Together Acadiana

1 Several PDA work teams have already come and 15 teams are scheduled for January through  
2 March. An additional 4 work teams are scheduled in June. As the number of volunteers  
3 increases, PSL's Disaster Recovery Coordinator is identifying additional partners to expand our  
4 capacity as needed.

5

6 3. PSL submitted a grant proposal to Volunteer Louisiana for their Volunteer Generation  
7 Fund Grant. We were awarded \$7,500 to assist in the setup and expansion of our  
8 volunteer Host Sites where our PDA volunteers are housed. This is a reimbursement grant.

9

10 4. A Special Project Grant proposal has been submitted to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance  
11 to secure funds in the amount of \$75,700 for PSL's continued long term recovery effort.

12

13 5. The DRT approved a Damage Grant Fund application to PDA on behalf of Amite Arcola  
14 Presbyterian Church. The grant was approved and funds have been remitted to the  
15 church Treasurer.

16

17 6. PSL has been awarded 6 AmeriCorps positions from a partnership between Delta Corps  
18 and SBP (formerly Saint Bernard Project). Three Site Supervisor positions will enable us to  
19 provide support to our Work Partners to ensure that our volunteers are well-supervised  
20 without adding undo burden to our partners. Three Volunteer Coordinator positions will  
21 help Host Sites with volunteer scheduling, pre- and post-trip communication, tracking of  
22 volunteer work hours, volunteer recruiting and engagement of the work teams.  
23 AmeriCorps members are expected to begin their 10-month term on January 16, 2017.

24

25 7. PSL's Disaster Recovery Coordinator launched the PSL Flood Recovery website featuring  
26 information on the 2016 Flood, volunteering, donating and applying for AmeriCorps  
27 positions. The URL is: <http://pslfloodrecovery.com>. Additional plans are in place for a  
28 mass email campaign to raise awareness, secure donations and recruit volunteer  
29 groups.

30

31

32 Respectfully submitted by Christina Drake, Disaster Recovery Coordinator

33

34

35

# CUBAN PARTNERSHIP

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Report for PSL Council Meeting, January 17, 2017

[submit by morning of January 9, 2017]

To: Layne Brubaker, Julia Miller PSL [Julia@pbysouthla.org](mailto:Julia@pbysouthla.org) ; Debbie Serra (Chair of Mission Committee)

Cc: Mariano Hinojosa, Laura St Clair, Rev. Zach Sasser, Jackie Cummings, Tom Tucker

From: Linda Walker, coordinator/chair for Cuban partnerships

1. This committee has begun plans for a trip to various churches in our sister Presbytery of Matanzas in the first week of May, 2017, to be offered to pastors and members who are serious about rejuvenating or establishing church partnerships in the Presbytery of Matanzas. Deadline for commitment is February 1<sup>st</sup>. Early notice has been sent to persons who have shown interest in the last year; wider notice will be made in the January 20<sup>th</sup> PSL 10/20.
2. Payment of **Cuba Partners Network dues for 2016, \$50.00**, will be requested this month.
3. Action needed: A celebration of 30 years of partnership between Presbytery of S. Louisiana and Matanzas Presbytery will be held at the June 6, 2017 PSL meeting.
4. **Action needed:** Consensus for a Proposal to fund a Cuban visitor from Presbytery of Matanzas either before or after the Cuba Partners Network meeting in Houston, September 2017. At least one leg of airfare will be funded by PSL. Funds (should be) available in a restricted account precisely for this kind of hospitality.
5. Action was delayed concerning the proposal that the Council support and recommend that the Presbytery of South Louisiana begin the necessary work to organize a reconciliation meeting with our partner Presbytery of Matanzas, Cuba. PSL Cuban Partners and Living Waters committee chairs (Linda Walker and Debbie Serra respectively) would initiate the process. Waiting for advice & recommendation from Jose Luis Casal, executive presbyter of Tres Rios Presbytery in West Texas, through Ron Sutto.