



ROLL CALL

ATTENDANCE TOTALS: Teaching Elders: 31, Commissioners: 33, Elders by Virtue of Office: 4, Total: 68 eligible voters. *[See Appendix, pp. 11-12]*

VIBRANT PRESBYTERY WELCOME AND OPENING PRAYER

Moderator Danny Morales opened the Assembly with prayer at 9:31 am. Our new commissioners were: **Kimberly Dudley** (FPC-Pompano Beach), **Kathy Oldham** (Hobe Sound Community), and Oscar Paez Castro (First Spanish PC). Our privileged guest that was **Rev. Ronald Evans** (South Louisiana Presbytery).

General Presbyter and Stated Clerk (GPSC) Daris Bultena, gave instructions on the assembly voting format using pollev.com/tflorida992 for both online and in-person ministers and commissioners. Once it was confirmed that everyone was able to vote on the app and do the run through, Daris declared that a quorum was present in keeping with the specification in the manual, and the docket was adopted.

MOTION 1: APPROVED the docket for the Stated Presbytery Assembly of May 18, 2024, as presented.
[MSA]

CONSENT MOTION

Recommendations of the Stated Clerk:

1. THAT the Parity Report in the Appendix *[p. 13]* used to enroll commissioners to this Presbytery Assembly along with any subsequent Presbytery Assemblies prior to May 2025 be adopted in keeping with the Manual of Operations and the Constitution.
2. THAT the required annual Pastor Compensation Report be received. *[Please note this is confidential information. Appendix p. 14]*

MOTION 2: APPROVED the two Stated Clerk items of the May 18th Consent Motion as presented.
[MSA]

GENERAL PRESBYTER AND STATED CLERK REPORT

- During 2024, the Session Records Review of 2023 minutes and materials is being conducted by the following method: Send the Stated Clerk a digital copy of your minutes along with the completed Session Minute Review Checklist *[See Appendix, pp. 15-16]* and the Session Minutes Review Form *[See Appendix, pp. 17-19]*. Once your minutes have been reviewed you will receive an acknowledgement sheet that can be inserted into your Session Minute book. The records review will be conducted by Presbytery representatives, so please remit your digitized records, and completed checklist and reviewer forms. PDF copies of all documents are preferred.
- Those churches having completed their 2024 records review of 2023 minutes are: First Lake Worth and Miami Shores. *SESSIONS ARE REMINDED THAT SUBMITTING RECORDS FOR REVIEW*



IS A CONSTITUTIONAL REQUIREMENT. ALL SESSIONS MUST COMPLETE THE 2024 RECORDS REVIEW.

- Statistical Reporting is complete and once again we successfully made our benchmark of 100% compliance. Well done, clerks!!
- Presbytery Assembly Dates for the remainder of 2024 are August 24, and November 9. The 2024 Parity Report was used to enroll commissioners to today's Presbytery Assembly.
- The Presbytery that the Board of Pensions has made significant changes to the medical benefits plan that will impact the minister members of the Presbytery. These changes can be found at pensions.org under [2025 Benefits Plan](#). The Committee on Ministry has adopted policy regarding these changes and it is reported in today's packet under the reports of the Committee on Ministry. The Presbytery will be joining with Clark Simmons, the Church Consultant of the Board of Pensions, during the first week of June to help pastors understand these changes.

VIBRANT PRESBYTERY LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

Past Moderator Debi Davis was invite to moderate this portion of the meeting.

MOTION 3: APPROVED to endorse Rev. Danny Morales' standing as Co-Moderator Candidate for the 226th General Assembly. [MSA]

VIBRANT LEADERS COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY

COM Chair Dwayne Black Jr., brought forth the following recommendations:

First Presbyterian Church of Delray Beach is requesting to approve their pastors be installed as Co-Pastors. *[It is noted that because this motion both changes the model of pastoral ministry for the church and allows persons already serving in other pastoral roles to be called, the Committee on Ministry refers this motion to the Presbytery for a 75% supermajority vote to approve. The congregation approved the motion by a majority vote on March 17, 2024, at a duly called congregational meeting.]*

MOTION 4: APPROVED that First PC, Delray Beach to call the Rev. Dr. Doug Hood (currently the Pastor) and the Rev. Greg Rapiere (currently the Associate Pastor) as Co-Pastors, and that they be installed to that role. [MA]

Rev. Ronald Evans was interviewed via Zoom. He was ordained in 1993 by Eastern Virginia Presbytery, and has pastored churches in Virginia, North Carolina, Illinois, and Washington DC. He has lived in South Florida for a while and would like to become a member.

MOTION 5: APPROVED to receive Rev. Ronald Evans into membership of the Presbytery Tropical Florida from the South Louisiana Presbytery, that he may serve on Pulpit Supply. [MA -See Appendix, p. 20]



VIBRANT LEADERS COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY

CPM Chair David Massey brought forth the following recommendations:

A recommendation for **Ms. Karla Dias** to be certified ready to receive a call, comes following a special examination by alternative means on the Polity, Worship and Sacraments, and Theology standard ordination exams. Ms. Dias was granted special exams in order to overcome language issues, cultural barriers, and anxiety due to a learning disability.

[In accordance with G-2.0610, Ms. Dias was provided with a special accommodation by the Committee on Preparation for Ministry for exams in Theology, Worship & Sacraments, and Polity. The exams were proctored by an examination committee appointed by the CPM and were given on January 11-12, 2024. Said committee deemed that the candidate has successfully passed the exams. These examinations were the final requirements needed prior to Ms. Dias standing for examination before the Presbytery certifying her as ready to receive a call. Because of the accommodation a three quarters (75%) vote of the Presbytery is required to sustain the examination.]

MOTION 6: APPROVED that Ms. Karla Dias be certified ready to receive a call after being examined by the Presbytery. *[MS-Statement of Faith, Appendix, pp. 21-22]*

Mr. Michael Mahan was interviewed to become a Candidate for Ministry of Word and Sacrament.

MOTION 7: APPROVED that Mr. Michael Mahan, be enrolled as a Candidate for Ministry of Word and Sacrament. *[MS]*

Mr. Samuel Ortiz was interviewed to become an Inquirer for Ministry of Word and Sacrament.

MOTION 8: APPROVED that Mr. Samuel Ortiz, be enrolled as an Inquirer for Ministry of Word and Sacrament. *[MS-Statement of Motivation, Appendix, p. 23]*

VIBRANT TOGETHER DISCIPLESHIP AS MISSIONAL ENDEAVOR

How these speak to each other...

A Vibrant Christ-Centered Community...

IS MISSIONAL
It recognizes mission as being oriented to the community in which the congregation is placed. A missional community understands itself as joining God in the mission God is doing.

DISCIPLE MAKING
Generating new disciples engages us in discipleship that takes us beyond our comfort zones in a way that manifests itself in deep spirituality, active evangelism, and frequent adult baptisms.



As part of the Vibrant Together ministry plan, the presbytery launched into the next segment of *IS MISSIONAL*, with the topic of Disciple Making. Using Ezekiel 37:1-14, the conversation considered discipleship through the lens of Dreaming, Disturbing, and Distancing.

The discussion centered on the following questions:

1. What dream is God asking you to have for discipleship in your church's neighborhood? (Ez.37:3 - "*Mortal, can these bones live?*")
2. What discipleship action or issue could disturb the status quo and make holy noise in your church's neighborhood? (Ez.37:7 - "*And as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together.*")
3. What distance does your church have to go to breathe life into the discipleship of its neighborhood? (Ez.37:10 - "*And the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.*")

VIBRANT WITNESS WORSHIP

Vice Moderator Deborah Sadriwalla led the worship using Acts 2:1-21 on Pentecost, with the reflection question of: *What are the deeds of God's power and presence in your congregation's life that the Spirit is empowering you to speak about?*

Today's offering was also designated to the Pentecost Offering (PCUSA). [See Appendix p. 24]

ADJOURNMENT

Moderator Morales thanked everyone for another successful hybrid meeting and adjourned the meeting with prayer at 11:32 am.



REPORTS

Report of the Stated Clerk:

- That during 2024, the Session Records Review of 2023 minutes and materials is being conducted by the following method: Send the Stated Clerk a digital copy of your minutes along with the completed Session Minute Review Checklist [See Appendix, pp. 15-16] and the Session Minutes Review Form [See Appendix, pp. 17-19]. Once your minutes have been reviewed you will receive an acknowledgement sheet that can be inserted into your Session Minute book. The records review will be conducted by Presbytery representatives, so please remit your digitized records, and completed checklist and reviewer forms. PDF copies of all documents are preferred.

- Those churches having completed their 2024 records review of 2023 minutes are: First Lake Worth and Miami Shores.

SESSIONS ARE REMINDED THAT SUBMITTING RECORDS FOR REVIEW IS A CONSTITUTIONAL REQUIREMENT. ALL SESSIONS MUST COMPLETE THE 2024 RECORDS REVIEW.

- Statistical Reporting is complete and once again we successfully made our benchmark of 100% compliance. Well done, clerks!!
- Presbytery Assembly Dates for the remainder of 2024 are August 24, and November 9. The 2024 Parity Report was used to enroll commissioners to today's Presbytery Assembly.
- Notifies the Presbytery that the Board of Pensions has made significant changes to the medical benefits plan that will impact the minister members of the Presbytery. These changes can be found at [pensions.org](https://www.pensions.org) under [2025 Benefits Plan](#). The Committee on Ministry has adopted policy regarding these changes and it is reported in today's packet under the reports of the Committee on Ministry. The Presbytery will be joining with Clark Simmons, the Church Consultant of the Board of Pensions, during the first week of June to help pastors understand these changes.

Report of the Leadership Council:

- APPROVED the Leadership Council minutes for January 24, 2024.
- APPROVED the Presbytery Assembly minutes for February 10, 2024.
- APPROVED the Leadership Council minutes for March 20, 2024.
- APPROVED to recommend that the Presbytery endorse Rev. Danny Morales' standing as Co-Moderator Candidate for the 226th General Assembly.

Report of the Leadership Council Acting as the Presbytery:

- APPROVED that the May 18th Presbytery Assembly be hybrid with the in-person portion being held in the Chapel in the Sky at First PC Fort Lauderdale.
- APPROVED that the Rev. Kim Robles be elected the co-chair of the Human Resource Committee.

Report of the Leadership Council Acting as the Presbytery Board of Trustees:

- RECEIVED the time of use modifications to the lease between Sunset PC and Iglesia Pentecostes Antorcha Encendida.



Report of the Leadership Council Acting as the Board of the Vibrant Together Development Corporation (VTDC):

- APPROVED that the Offerings of the VTDC document be adopted as a working document.
- APPROVED that the Process Model for the VTDC be adopted as a working model for ministry incubation, property repurposing, and asset management.
- APPROVED that the Hiring Team be authorized to invite person/s to visit within the bounds and negotiate terms of service, and that the executive committee be permitted to hire at the advice of the Hiring Team.

Report of the Committee on Ministry:

- APPROVED the COM minutes of February 1, 2024 as presented.
- APPROVED the COM minutes of March 7, 2024 as presented.
- APPROVED the COM minutes of April 4, 2024 as presented.
- APPROVED the request for sabbatical plan for Rev. Greg Rapier from May 29-July 7, 2024.
- APPROVED the Pulpit Supply Roster for Peace Covenant for February/March 2024.
- APPROVED to allow Rev. Amy Howe to moderate the annual congregational meeting for Peace Covenant PC.
- APPROVED the recommendation that the Presbytery vote by supermajority on the proposal that the pastoral model for ministry be modified to allow Rev. Dr. Doug Hood and Rev. Greg Rapier to become Co-Pastors at First Presbyterian Church of Delray Beach. *[It is noted that because this motion both changes the model of pastoral ministry for the church and allows persons already serving in other pastoral roles to be called, the Committee on Ministry refers this motion to the Presbytery for a 75% supermajority vote to approve. The congregation approved the motion by a majority vote on March 17, 2024, at a duly called congregational meeting.]*
- APPROVED the recommendation that the Rev. Ronald Evans be received as a member of the Presbytery from the Presbytery of South Louisiana.
- APPROVED that, if the way be clear, All Nations PC may form part-time bridge pastor relationship with the Rev. Denise McLeod. *[It is noted that the way becomes clear once COM approves Terms of Covenant.]*

Report of the Committee on Ministry Acting as the Presbytery:

- APPROVED the Terms of Covenant between First PC of West Palm Beach and Rev. Dr. Jennifer Stroud as Bridge Pastor, expiring September 5, 2024.
- APPROVED that First Delray Beach call a Congregational Meeting on March 17, 2024, for the purpose of electing Rev. Dr. Doug Hood and Rev. Greg Rapier as Co-Pastors, and that Rev. Dr. Daris Bultena moderate the meeting.
- APPROVED, pending the action of the Presbytery, the 2024 Terms of Call between First PC Delray Beach and Rev. Dr. Doug Hood, as Co-Pastor.
- APPROVED, pending the action of the Presbytery, the 2024 Terms of Call between First PC Delray Beach and Rev. Greg Rapier, as Co-Pastor.



- APPROVED the Terms of Covenant between First PC Fort Lauderdale, and Rev. Diane Shoaf as Temporary Supply Pastor, expiring July 16, 2024, with clarity that it is the COM's understanding that retirement dues are required.
- APPROVED the Terms of Covenant between First Miami PC and Rev. Dr. Christopher Benek as Transitional Pastor, expiring January 27, 2025.
- APPROVED the Terms of Covenant between Sunrise PC and Rev. Yosneis Fleitas as Transitional Pastor, expiring March 31, 2025.
- APPROVED that Rev. Denise McLeod be added to the 2024 Pulpit Supply List.
- APPROVED that Rev. Hanlim Chae be transferred to the Presbytery of Florida, that he may serve as an Interim Pastor within their bounds.
- APPROVED the Terms of Covenant between First PC Port St. Lucie and the Rev. David Grachek as Transitional Pastor, expiring March 31, 2025.
- APPROVED the Terms of Covenant between Miami Shores PC and the Rev. Kim Robles as Transitional Pastor, expiring June 30, 2025.
- APPROVED that Rev. Ronald Evans, if the way be clear, be placed on the Pulpit Supply List. *[It is noted that the way becomes clear pending action of the Presbytery on May 18 to receive Rev. Evans as a member of the Presbytery.]*
- APPROVED new language as the policy regarding benefits and coverage for the Minimum Terms of Call/Covenant beginning January 1, 2025 as the following:

The minimum terms of call shall require full participation for the pastor in the Board of Pensions benefits programs including medical and income protection through the Congregational Pastors Package or Transitional Pastor's Participation (the Transitional Pastor's Participation is available in 2025-2027). Congregations shall provide a strategy (approved by the COM) to address the coverage of a spouse and/or children to ensure that the spouse and/or children are appropriately covered.

The minimum terms of covenant for Transitional Pastors, Stated Supply Pastors, or Bridge Pastors serving 20 hours a week or more shall require full participation for the pastor in the Board of Pensions benefits programs including medical and income protection through the Congregational Pastors Package. Congregations shall provide a strategy (approved by the COM) to address the coverage of a spouse and/or children to ensure that the spouse and/or children are appropriately covered.

- APPROVED the Moderators of churches without Installed Pastors:

NORTH

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| ○ Faith PC, Palm Springs | Paul Bayerl (Administrative Commission) |
| ○ First PC, Boynton Beach | Amalie Ash (Transitional Pastor) |
| ○ First PC, Lake Worth | Daris Bultena (Moderator) |
| ○ First PC, Port St. Lucie | David Grachek (Transitional Pastor) |
| ○ First PC, West Palm Beach | Jennifer Stroud (Moderator) |
| ○ Goodwill PC, Ft. Pierce | Daris Bultena (Moderator) |
| ○ Grace PC, Lantana | Randy Gill (Moderator) |
| ○ Lakeside PC, West Palm Beach | Roger Richardson (Transitional Pastor) |



- Peace PC, Port Salerno Lonnie Darnell (Transitional Pastor)

CENTRAL

- Ascension Peace PC, Lauderhill Dwayne Black Jr. (Moderator)
- Community PC, Deerfield Beach Geoff McLean (Moderator)
- Community LBTS Geoff McLean (Moderator)
- First PC, Pompano Beach Tim Roberts (Transitional Pastor)
- Glades PC, Boca Raton Geoff McLean (Moderator)

SOUTH

- All Nations PC, N. Miami Beach Eve Tolley (Moderator)
- Central PC, Miami Mark Wright (Moderator)
- First Miami PC, Miami David Grachek (Administrative Commission)
- First Spanish, Miami Angel Ortiz (Transitional Pastor)
- Miami Shores PC, Miami Shores Kim Robles (Transitional Pastor)
- New Covenant PC, Miami Daniel Morales (Temporary Supply)
- Peace Covenant PC, Key West Kennedy McGowan (Moderator)
- Riviera PC, Miami Melanie Marsh (Transitional Pastor)
- Sunrise PC, Miami Yosneis Fleitas (Transitional Pastor)
- Trinity PC, Miami Kennedy McGowan (Moderator)

Report of the Committee on Preparation for Ministry:

- APPROVED the CPM meeting minutes for January 16, 2024 as presented.
- APPROVED a recommendation to the Special Exams Task Force that they be invited to prepare a Bible Study requirement for Ms. Jennifer Rohrich, as a supplement to the Special Exegesis Exam in which the Task Force determined that the exam was not sustained.
- APPROVED to invite Ms. Deborah Viveros to be interviewed for potential candidacy at the August 6th CPM meeting.
- APPROVED that Ms. Karla Dias be examined by the Presbytery to be certified ready for call at the May 18, 2024, Presbytery Assembly. This recommendation comes following a special examination by alternative means on the Polity, Worship and Sacraments, and Theology standard ordination exams. Ms. Dias was granted special exams in order to overcome language issues, cultural barriers, and anxiety due to a learning disability.

[In accordance with G-2.0610, Ms. Dias was provided with a special accommodation by the Committee on Preparation for Ministry for exams in Theology, Worship & Sacraments, and Polity. The exams were proctored by an examination committee appointed by the CPM and were given on January 11-12, 2024. Said committee deemed that the candidate has successfully passed the exams. These examinations were the final requirements needed prior to Ms. Dias standing for examination before the Presbytery certifying her as ready to receive a call. Because of the accommodation a three quarters (75%) vote of the Presbytery is required to sustain the examination.]

- APPROVED a recommendation to the Presbytery that Mr. Michael Mahan be enrolled as a candidate for the ministry of Word and Sacrament.



- APPROVED a recommendation to the Presbytery that Mr. Samuel Ortiz to be enrolled as an inquirer for the Ministry of Word and Sacrament.

Report of the Committee on Financial Management:

- RECEIVED the financial reports as presented by Director of Finance, and APPROVED them pending financial review.

----- *End of Reports* -----



INFORMATION

From the Planning Team for Today's Assembly:

We will be using Mutual Invitation during the breakout discussion portion of the meeting.

The Principles of Mutual Invitation:

- Speakers will limit their response to one (1) minute or less.
- The first person to share will be the person whose first name begins with "A" or is closest to "A" in the alphabet.
- After that person has spoken, he or she then invites another to share. Whoever you invite does not need to be the person next to you.
- After the next person has spoken, that person is given the privilege to invite another to share.
- If you have something to say but are not ready yet, say "pass for now," and then invite someone else to share. You will be invited again later.
- If you don't want to say anything, simply say "pass" and proceed to invite another to share.
- We will do this until everyone has been invited.
- All are invited to listen but not to respond to someone's sharing immediately (no cross talk is permitted).
- After everyone has shared, that is the appropriate time for clarifying questions or comments.
- Each group will need to observe self-regulation to achieve the principles of Mutual Invitation.
- Those participating on Zoom will be placed in Breakout Rooms for discussions.
- Those in-person at First Ft. Lauderdale PC will be placed in discussion groups. The method will be shared by the moderator.
- Also, each group should select a recorder to take notes, and someone who will report back to the Presbytery Assembly. Send your notes to Sandra@vibrantpresbytery.org.

----- *End of Information* -----

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Dr. Daris Bultena, Stated Clerk



ROLL CALL

M=Minister | C=Commissioner | EVO=Elder by Virtue of Office

ALL NATIONS-N. Miami Beach
M: [None]
C: 0/1

ASCENSION PEACE-Lauderhill
TS: Kenneth White (Absent)
C: Joyce Carty

CENTRAL-Miami
M: Mark Wright (Absent)
C: Patricia Mellerson

COMMUNITY-Lauderdale-by-the-Sea
M: [None]
C: Deborah Sadriwalla

COMMUNITY-Deerfield Beach
TS: Skip Bush (Absent)
C: 0/2

EL CORDERO-Miami
M: Angel Ortiz (Excused)
C: Samuel Ortiz

FIRST MIAMI-Miami
(Administrative Commission)
TP: Chris Benek

FIRST-Boynton Beach
TP: Amalie A. Ash
C: Pamela Cotant

FIRST-Delray Beach
M: Douglas Hood
AP: Greg Rapier (Excused)
EVO: Nancy Fine
C: 0/6

FIRST-Ft. Lauderdale
M: Nic Merchant (Excused)
AP: Diane Shoaf (Excused)
EVO: Debi Davis
C: Barbara Hollowell
C: Harry Mayton
C: Thomas Nichols
C: Jim Sabin
C: Patty Stover

FIRST-Hollywood
M: Kennedy McGowan
C: 0/2

FIRST-Lake Worth
M: [None]
C: Alan Lin

FIRST-Pompano Beach
M: Timothy Roberts
C: Kimberly Dudley
C: Rick Gow

FIRST-Port St. Lucie
TP: David Grachek
C: 0/2

FIRST-Stuart
M: David Grachek
C: 0/2

FIRST-Tequesta
M: Guillermo Figueredo
C: 0/3

FIRST-West Palm Beach
M: Jennifer Stroud
C: 0/1

FIRST SPANISH-Miami
TP: Angel Ortiz (Excused)
C: Oscar Paez-Castro
C: Maria Sit

GARDENS-Palm Beach Gardens
M: Jeff Colarossi
C: Lauraine Hoensheid

GLADES-Boca Raton
TS: Bruce Irwin
C: 0/2

GOODWILL-Fort Pierce
M: [None]
C: Ron Cason

GRACE-Lantana
M: [None]
EVO: Reese Leach
C: Leonor Yanez

HOBE SOUND COM-Hobe Sound
M: Paul Bayerl (Absent)
C: Kathy Oldham

KOREAN-Miami
M: Steven Jhu (Absent)
C: 0/4

KOREAN-Palm Beach
M: Sung Joo
C: 0/2

LAKESIDE-West Palm Beach
M: Roger Richardson
C: Heather Ferguson
C: Susan Halliday
C: Fran Thew

MIAMI SHORES-Miami
TP: Kim Robles
C: Barbara Biggart
C: Scott MacDonald
C: Terry Rodriguez

MYRTLE GROVE-Miami
M: Leon Lovell-Martin (Absent)
C: 0/2

NEW COVENANT-Miami
TS: Danny Morales
C: 0/2

NEW LIFE-Miami
M: Heidi Arencibia
C: Enrique Mesa
C: Manny Perez

PALMS WEST-Royal Palm Beach
M: Ruffin Stepp (Absent)
C: 0/4

PEACE COVENANT-Key West
M: [None]
C: 0/2

PEACE-Stuart
TP: Lonnie Darnell
C: Donna Berger

PINECREST-Miami
M: Jacqueline Brovold
C: 0/2

PLANTATION-Plantation
M: David Massey
C: Claire Cubbin-Will
C: Becky Rountree

RIVIERA-Miami
M: Melanie Marsh (Excused)
C: Laura Forthergill
C: Susan Mazzola

SANCTUARY-Ft. Lauderdale
M: Dwayne Black Jr.
EVO: Barbara Hassall
C: 0/2

SUNRISE-Hialeah
TP: Yosneis Fleitas (Excused)
C: Carmen Stewart

SUNSET-Ft. Lauderdale
M: Brice Rogers (Excused)
C: Donaida Vergel

TRINITY-Key West
M: [None]
C: Linda McLeod



May 18, 2024

APPENDIX

RETIRED CLERGY NOT IN ATTENDANCE ARE AUTOMATICALLY EXCUSED. THOSE NOT PRESENTLY SERVING IN A CHURCH AS AN INTERIM, DESIGNATED OR SUPPLY PASTOR ARE:

Richard Anderson	Excused	Randall Gill	Excused	Pedro Rivera	Excused
Dennis Andrews	Excused	James Goldsmith	Excused	Lawrence Schenk	Excused
Raymond Anglin	Present	Roberto Hernandez	Excused	Moises Senti	Excused
Martin Anorga	Excused	Ervin Joslin	Excused	William Stepp	Excused
Patricia Ashley	Excused	James S. Kirk	Excused	John Stewart	Excused
James Bailey II	Excused	Elaine Klaasen	Excused	Maurice Stone	Excused
Dwayne Black, Sr.	Excused	Joan Leroy	Excused	David Thomas	Excused
Constance Bright	Excused	James Mead	Excused	Carol Trax	Excused
Connie Caldwell	Excused	Leah Meador	Excused	John Vaughn	Excused
Robert Coleman*	Excused	Myron Miller	Excused	German Vega-Feliciano	Excused
Thomas Culberson	Excused	Mardoqueo Munoz	Excused	Roger Verse	Present
Benjamin Davis	Excused	Wayne Myers	Excused	Robert Welsh	Excused
Donald Davis	Excused	James Nimmo III	Excused	Antonio Welty	Excused
Julio Delgado	Excused	Rosalia Orta	Excused	Hai Keon Yang	Excused
Fred Depenbrock	Excused	Edward Peachey	Excused		
Leslie Depenbrock	Excused	Joe Reggin	Excused		
Daniel Gerhardt	Excused	Jose Rivera	Excused		
Joann Germershausen	Excused				

** No contact info*

OTHER CLERGY MEMBERS NOT SERVING AS CALLED, INTERIM, DESIGNATED OR SUPPLY: (Those laboring outside the bounds of Presbytery are automatically excused)

MINISTER IN OTHER SERVICE (MOS)

Gustavo Astudillo	Excused
Pamela Barras	Excused
Brace Bateman	Excused
Georges Bitar	Present
Daris Bultena	Present
Jose Manuel Capella Pratts	Excused
Valdir Franca	Present
Pamela Masten	Excused
Geoff McLean	Present
Eliane Menezes	Present
Robert Norris	Excused
Dohyun Paik	Excused
Elizabeth Pankey-Warren	Excused
Jorge Sayago-Gonzalez	Excused
Evangeline Tolley	Present
Tricia Young	Present

MINISTER AT LARGE (MAL)

Dawn Bryan	Absent
Katie Christie	Absent
Lucy Dergarabedian	Present
Ronald Evans	Present
Charles Falcone	Absent
Raul Fernandez-Calienes	Absent
Linda Lader	Excused
Denise McLeod	Excused
Audley Reid	Excused
Kenneth Smith	Absent
Ben Sorensen	Present

** No contact info*



PRESBYTERY OF TROPICAL FLORIDA
Parity Report 2024-2025

Pursuant to the Presbytery By-Laws (5-5), representation by congregations at Presbytery meetings shall be determined in the following manner:

One ruling elder commissioner for each teaching elder in an installed or temporary pastoral position (no Parish Associates are included in this representation); **plus:**

- Churches with less than 100 members: 1 additional elder commissioner
- Churches with 101 to 300 members: 2 additional elder commissioners
- Churches with 301 to 500 members: 3 additional elder commissioners
- For each additional 500 members: 3 + 1 additional elder commissioner not to exceed 7.

The number of active members shall be determined by the last completed Annual Statistical report of the General Assembly. **Therefore, the congregations of the Presbytery of Tropical Florida may send the following number of ruling elder commissioners from the second meeting of 2023 through the first meeting of 2024:**

CHURCH	MEMBERS	MINISTERS	COMMISSIONERS
All Nations PC	35	0	1
Ascension Peace PC	86	1	2
Central PC	159	1	3
Community PC	83	1	2
(The) Community Church	55	1	2
El Cordero PC	27	1	2
First Miami PC	121	1	<i>(Administrative Commission)</i>
First PC, Boynton Beach	60	1	2
First PC, Delray Beach	848	2	6
First PC, Ft. Lauderdale	769	2	6
First PC, Hollywood	67	1	2
First PC, Lake Worth	11	0	1
First PC, Pompano Beach	294	1	3
First PC, Port St. Lucie	96	1	2
First PC, Stuart	57	1	2
First PC, Tequesta	180	1	3
First PC, West Palm Bch	38	1	2
First Spanish PC	66	1	2
Gardens PC	83	1	2
Glades PC	29	1	2
Goodwill PC	17	0	1
Grace PC	10	0	1
Hobe Sound Community	71	1	2
Korean PC, Miami	318	1	4
Korean PC, Palm Beach	65	1	2
Lakeside PC	124	1	3
Miami Shores, PC	136	1	3
Myrtle Grove PC	63	1	2
New Covenant PC	53	1	2
New Life PC	81	1	2
Palms West PC	346	1	4
Peace PC	218	1	3
Peace Covenant PC	77	0	1
Pinecrest PC	65	1	2
Plantation PC	110	1	3
Riviera PC	69	1	2
(The) Sanctuary Church	54	1	2
Sunrise PC	37	1	2
Sunset PC	57	1	2
Trinity PC	19	0	1

ELDER-BY-VIRTUE-OFFICE

As PTF Committee Chairs and Leadership Council Members, the following are continuing members of the Presbytery by Virtue of Office, serving the presbytery in a particular role.

Nancy Fine

Finance Management Chair

Reese Leach

Coral Gables Grant Fund Chair

Debi Davis

Leadership Council

Barbara Hassall

Leadership Council

Deborah Sadriwalla

Leadership Council

These elders should not be included in their church's Commissioner allotment.



PRESBYTERY OF TROPICAL FLORIDA
 2022 Church Reporting

NO.	CHURCH	MINISTER	RELATIONSHIP	FULLTIME PART TIME	COVENANT EXPIRATION	BOUNDARIES EXPIRATION	EFFECTIVE SALARY	SECA	BoP DUES	VOUCHERED EXPENSES	TOTAL PACKAGE	VACATION	EDUCATION
1	ALL NATIONS - North Miami	Rev. Dr. Kenneth White	TS	PT	8/31/24	3/28/25	\$26,000.00	\$1,989.00	\$3,120.00	\$0.00	\$27,998.10	1 Month	NA
2	ASCENSION PEACE - Lauderdale	Rev. Mark Wright	INS	FT	NA	1/16/26	\$93,600.00	\$7,160.40	\$33,300.00	\$4,558.00	\$138,618.40	1 Month	2 Weeks
3	CENTRAL - Miami	Rev. Dr. Skip Bush, Jr.	TS	PT	7/31/24	6/30/24	\$14,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$14,000.00	NA	NA
4	COMMUNITY - Deerfield Beach												
5	COMMUNITY - Lauderdale By The Sea												
6	EL CORDERO - Miami	Rev. Angel Ortiz	INS	PT	NA	9/23/24	\$15,000.00	\$1,147.50	\$6,028.20	\$1,950.00	\$24,125.70	1 Month	2 Weeks
8	FIRST MIAMI - Miami	Rev. Dr. Chris Benek	TP	FT	1/27/25	9/15/25	\$188,000.00	\$10,710.00	\$57,000.00	\$11,200.00	\$266,910.00	1 Month	2 Weeks
9	FIRST - Boynton Beach	Rev. Annalie Ash	TP	FT	12/31/23	9/15/25	\$36,871.20	\$2,745.35	\$0.00	\$3,970.35	\$43,586.90	1 Month	2 Weeks
10	FIRST - Delray Beach	Rev. Dr. Doug Hood	INS	FT	NA	9/15/25	\$159,432.00	\$12,196.55	\$53,808.00	\$12,900.00	\$238,336.55	1 Month + 1 Weekend	2 Weeks
		Rev. Greg Rapier	INS	FT	NA	9/1/24	\$128,782.00	\$9,852.00	\$50,390.00	\$13,200.00	\$202,224.00	1 Month	2 Weeks
		Rev. Nic Merchant	INS	FT	NA	9/15/25	\$192,970.00	\$14,762.00	\$4,297.00	\$14,050.00	\$276,079.00	1 Month	3 Weeks
11	FIRST - Ft. Lauderdale	Rev. Diane Shoaf	TSP	PT	7/16/24	2/21/26	\$88,886.52	\$4,176.90	\$3,822.00	\$14,711.59	\$111,597.01	1 Month	2 Weeks
12	FIRST - Hollywood	Rev. Kennedy McGowan	INS	FT	NA	10/29/24	\$85,599.34	\$6,548.35	\$35,291.09	\$9,200.00	\$136,638.78	1 Month/5 Sundays	2 Weeks
13	FIRST - Lake Worth												
14	FIRST - Pompano Beach	Rev. Dr. Timothy Roberts	TP	FT	8/14/24	9/15/25	\$117,600.00	\$8,996.40	\$45,864.00	\$7,000.00	\$179,460.40	1 Month	2 Weeks
15	FIRST - Port St. Lucie	Rev. David Grachek	TP	PT	3/31/25	9/15/25	\$40,000.00	\$3,060.00	\$16,800.00	\$2,750.00	\$62,610.00	1 Month	2 Weeks
16	FIRST - Stuart	Rev. David Grachek	INS	PT	NA	9/15/25	\$48,690.00	\$3,672.00	\$6,682.80	\$6,560.70	\$65,605.50	1 Month	2 Weeks
17	FIRST - Tequesta	Rev. Willy Figueredo	INS	FT	NA	9/15/25	\$90,000.00	\$6,885.00	\$41,656.58	\$9,050.00	\$147,591.58	4 Weeks	2 Weeks
18	FIRST - West Palm Beach	Rev. Dr. Jennifer Stroud	TP	PT	9/5/25	4/19/25	\$38,000.00	\$2,907.00	\$4,940.00	\$4,124.40	\$49,971.40	1 Month	2 Weeks
19	FIRST SPANISH - Miami	Rev. Angel Ortiz	TP	PT	10/14/24	9/23/24	\$60,000.00	\$4,590.00	\$24,000.00	\$5,500.00	\$94,090.00	1 Month	2 Weeks
20	GARDENS - Palm Beach Gardens	Rev. Jeff Colarossi	INS	FT	NA	7/27/25	\$83,200.00	\$6,364.80	\$34,528.00	\$9,900.00	\$133,992.80	4 Weeks	2 Weeks
21	GLADES - Boca Raton	Rev. Dr. Bruce Irwin	TS	PT	10/31/24	7/11/25	\$14,560.00	\$1,113.84	\$0.00	\$600.00	\$16,273.84	2 Weeks	NA
22	GOODWILL - Ft. Pierce												
23	GRACE - Lantana												
24	HOBE SOUND - Hobe Sound	Rev. Paul Bayerl	INS	FT	NA	3/12/26	\$75,675.60	\$5,789.18	\$29,513.48	\$8,032.27	\$119,010.53	31 Days	2 Weeks
25	KOREAN MIAMI - Cooper City	Rev. Steven Jhu	INS	FT	NA	7/13/25	\$68,640.00	\$3,978.00	\$26,770.00	\$12,730.00	\$112,118.00	1 Month	2 Weeks
26	KOREAN - Palm Beach	Rev. Sung Joo	INS	FT	NA	12/13/24	\$54,000.00	\$2,019.00	\$23,000.00	\$6,100.00	\$85,119.00	1 Month	2 Weeks
27	LAKESIDE - West Palm Beach	Rev. Dr. Roger Richardson	INS	FT	NA	9/15/25	\$51,195.46	\$3,916.45	\$3,024.00	\$7,280.00	\$65,415.91	1 Month	2 Weeks
28	MIAMI SHORES - Miami Shores	Rev. Kim Robles	TP	FT	6/30/25	9/15/25	\$97,243.00	\$7,439.09	\$40,842.06	\$2,150.00	\$147,674.15	35 Days	2 Weeks
29	MYRTLE-GROVES - Miami	Rev. Dr. Leon Lovell-Martin	INS	FT	NA	9/15/25	\$67,277.00	\$23,157.12	\$0.00	\$7,199.84	\$97,633.96	NA	2 Weeks
30	NEW COVENANT - Miami	Rev. Daniel Morales	TS	PT	9/30/24	2/13/25	\$25,000.00	\$1,912.50	\$2,157.76	\$4,000.00	\$33,070.26	1 Month	2 Weeks
31	NEW LIFE - Miami	Rev. Heidi Arencibia	INS	FT	NA	8/31/24	\$65,200.00	\$4,987.80	\$26,876.16	\$10,500.00	\$107,563.96	NA	NA
32	PALMS WEST - Royal Palm Beach	Rev. Ruffin Stepp	INS	FT	NA	9/15/25	\$70,000.00	\$5,355.00	\$34,300.00	\$14,000.00	\$123,655.00	30 Days	14 Days
33	PEACE COVENANT - Key West												
34	PEACE - Stuart	Rev. Lonnie Darnell	TP	FT	5/31/24	5/19/25	\$87,000.00	\$6,655.50	\$36,540.00	\$5,500.00	\$135,695.50	1 Month	2 Weeks
35	PINECREST - Pinecrest	Rev. Jacqueline Brovold	INS	FT	NA	1/23/25	\$146,500.00	\$11,207.00	\$119,166.00	\$16,750.00	\$293,623.00	5 Weeks	2 Weeks
36	PLANTATION - Plantation	Rev. Dr. David Massey	INS	FT	NA	9/15/25	\$80,641.00	\$0.00	\$31,450.00	\$2,000.00	\$114,091.00	4 Weeks	NA
37	RIVIERA - Miami	Rev. Melanie Marsh	TP	FT	1/31/24	9/15/25	\$82,457.96	\$6,308.03	\$31,543.19	\$5,500.00	\$125,809.18	1 Month	2 Weeks
38	SANCTUARY (SECOND) - Ft. Lauderdale	Rev. Dwayne Black Jr.	INS	FT	NA	9/15/25	\$71,104.80	\$5,439.52	\$7,740.00	\$0.00	\$84,284.32	1 Month	2 Weeks
39	SUNRISE - Hialeah	Rev. Yosneis Fleitas	TP	FT	3/31/25	12/10/24	\$69,195.04	\$3,916.42	\$6,722.60	\$5,500.00	\$85,334.06	1 Month	2 Weeks
40	SUNSET - Ft. Lauderdale	Rev. Dr. Brice Rogers	INS	FT	NA	9/15/25	\$89,841.00	\$0.00	\$35,038.00	\$8,437.00	\$133,316.00	4 Weeks	2 Weeks
41	TRINITY - Key West												

INS = Installed Pastor | TP = Transitional Pastor | TS = Temporary Supply



PRESBYTERY OF TROPICAL FLORIDA
SESSION MINUTE REVIEW CHECK LIST

*** Clerk of Session put a stickie in the minute book noting this item for quick reference.

Church Name: _____ Year (of minutes to review): _____

NEEDS TO HAPPEN AT EACH MEETING

- Date, Time, Place, Moderator's name is clear at beginning of each set of minutes
- Attendees, Excused, and Absent Names are recorded.
- Others present are noted and duration of their stay.
- The presence of a quorum is noted.
- Meetings are opened with prayer.
- Meetings are closed with prayer.
- Motions are clearly defined, and the action recorded (passed, referred, tabled)

***** YEARLY ITEMS**

- Statement of composition of session and how it corresponds to composition of the congregation (G10.0301) at least annually
- Meetings of session are at least quarterly
- Record of training of elected officers by session
- Record of examination of elected officers by session
- Record of election of clerk of session and length of term
- Record of annual election of treasurer by the session
- Record of full financial review annually
- Record of approving the curriculum used in education programs
- Selection of members of the nominating committee by the congregation in an amount greater than the 2 elders from the session and a possible deacon
- Annual review of the adequacy of the pastor(s) compensation by the congregation



PRESBYTERY OF TROPICAL FLORIDA
SESSION MINUTE REVIEW CHECK LIST

*** Clerk of Session put a stickie in the minute book noting this item for quick reference.

***** AS NEEDED**

- Record of commissioner to presbytery reports
- Record of review of work of organizations in the church
- Record of setting the times of worship and the celebration of the Sacraments
- Record of calling congregational meetings with sufficient notice (G-1.0502)
- Minutes of the congregational meetings

ROLLS AND REGISTER

- Baptized members roll
- Active members roll
- Inactive members roll
- Affiliate members roll
- Roll of elders with dates of ordination, terms of service
- Roll of deacons with dates of ordinations, terms of service
- *** Can the rolls be easily reconciled with the minutes that record an action concerning a member.

_____ Approved _____ Approved with Exception _____ Not Approved

Reviewer's Name: _____ Date: _____



PRESBYTERY OF TROPICAL FLORIDA
SESSION MINUTE REVIEW FORM

Church Name: _____ Year (of minutes to review): _____

The spirit of this form is to try and capture what this presbytery feels is essential to include in a church's minutes in order to ensure transparency and good order.

Section I:

1. Each congregation is to maintain the membership rolls (active, affiliate, baptized), deaths, pastors, elders, deacons (if applicable). This register of the rolls of the church was updated on (date): _____.
2. The Annual Meeting of the Congregation was held on (date): _____.

At this meeting, the following transpired:

- | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|-----|----|----|
| a. Review Terms of Call for pastor | - | - | - | - | YES | or | NO |
| b. Elected members of the Nominating Committee | - | - | - | - | YES | or | NO |
| c. Elected new elders and deacons (if applicable) | - | - | - | - | YES | or | NO |

If the election of the Nominating Committee or new elders did not occur at the annual meeting, please indicate below when this occurred (date): _____.

3. New officers were examined by the Session on (date): _____.
4. New officers were ordained/installed during worship on (date): _____.
5. The Session established the annual budget on (date): _____.
(Please attach a copy of the budget in your minutes.)
6. The Session elected the treasurer on (date): _____ for a term of: _____.
7. The Session elected the Clerk of Session on (date): _____ for a term of: _____.
8. The church had a financial review (G-3.0113) with the findings reported to the session on (date): _____.
9. The Annual Statistical Report has been attached to the minutes at the end of the calendar year. YES or NO

Section II:

Please take an average month and check if the following information has been recorded in the session minutes.
(month looked at: _____)

- | | | | | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|---|-----|----|----|
| 1. The meeting was opened and closed with prayer. | - | - | - | - | YES | or | NO |
| 2. Date, hour and place of the meeting was recorded. | - | - | - | - | YES | or | NO |
| 3. Name of the moderator is given. | - | - | - | - | YES | or | NO |
| 4. A quorum was declared. | - | - | - | - | YES | or | NO |
| 5. Names of those absent and excused were listed. | - | - | - | - | YES | or | NO |
| 6. The minutes of the last meeting were approved. | - | - | - | - | YES | or | NO |
| 7. All action items are recorded. | - | - | - | - | YES | or | NO |
| 8. Clerk and the Minister has signed the minutes. | - | - | - | - | YES | or | NO |



Section III:

The following items should be contained in the minutes if applicable:

1. The Session has authorized baptisms on (date): _____.
2. The Session has authorized the observance of the Lord’s Supper on (dates):
_____.
3. The Session received new members (dates):
_____.
- a. By letter of transfer on (dates):
_____.
- b. By reaffirmation of faith on (dates):
_____.
- c. By adult baptism on (dates):
_____.
4. The minutes contain a detailed financial report within the year. - YES or NO
5. The Session took a candidate under care on (date): _____.

Section IV:

Congregational Meetings may contain the following information. Please indicate if appropriate:

1. A new pastoral relationship was established on (date): _____.
2. A pastoral relationship was dissolved on (date): _____.
3. Any matters relating to property issues such as purchase, lease, sale, were discussed and voted on (dates):
_____.

Section V:

The annual meeting of the corporation was held on (date): _____.
(This meeting can be the same as the annual meeting of the congregation.)

Section VI:

The Presbytery of Tropical Florida mandated in 2014 that session minutes be signed by both the Clerk of Session (the person taking and presenting the minutes for session approval) and the Moderator (the person who moderated the meeting) after the subsequent session meeting has approved the previous session’s minutes. During the annual inspection of the churches’ minutes and record books, the Stated Clerk shall note the presence or absence of both signatures on approved session minutes.

Minutes – final minutes shall be kept on acid-free paper, bound in a permanent form, numbered so that material may not be inserted at a later time. Unused spaces shall be marked through with the phrase: “Intentionally left blank”. Temporary minutes may be kept in a loose-leaf form, but the signed, final form shall be the permanent record.

1. Has Per Capita been paid? - - - - - - YES or NO
If not, why not? _____.



**PRESBYTERY OF TROPICAL FLORIDA
SESSION MINUTE REVIEW FORM**

1. Are there any loans from the Presbytery? - - - - YES or NO
Are they current? _____.
2. Has/have your Pastor(s) completed the Presbytery Boundaries Training? YES or NO
3. Has/have the Session/Trustees reviewed the adequacy of the church's insurance program? YES or NO
4. Has any change in Terms of Call been filed with the COM? - - YES or NO
_____ Check if the church has re-done their by-laws
_____ Check if your church needs help with the re-writing of by-laws

Because each church determines the quorums for sessions and congregations, it would be advisable in the beginning of your minutes for a calendar year, to state: the quorum for a session meeting is _____ people/percentage of the session.

The quorum for a congregational meeting is _____ percentage of active members.

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE REVIEWER:

Items to be worked on for next year's review:

The minutes of _____.

Church were reviewed and approved as: - - - **WITHOUT exception** **WITH exception**

Reviewer's Signature: _____ Date: _____

PTF Representative's Signature: _____ Date: _____



REV. RONALD EVANS Statement of Faith

Praise God, for all glory and grace come from the Almighty King. As we are confronted with the challenges surrounding our world today it is in, my opinion, the power and presence of God Almighty which is the difference maker. God is the Almighty Creator of all things past, presence and things to come and as Christians we are impelled to rely upon the infiniteness of His wisdom to lead and guide us. God is Sovereign. God is Omnipotent and God's grace; it is a prerequisite to salvation.

Much like the world in biblical times, particularly the Old Testament era. when God empowered the people to a call and service of agape' love but they were not without fault. The world we live in today is not without fault. But as God came to them incarnate. in order that they might see a more perfect way. God too, continues to come to us today in serious ways. in various signs as well as in His Divine miraculousness. Our task is to prayerfully discern when God is speaking.

In spite of all of God's miracles to demonstrate a divine presence for the Israelites. God, had to come to them/to us. in the presence of Christ. in order that we might become true believers by His life. His death and His resurrection. Thus the scripture that comes to mind is John 17 as Jesus, in His priestly prayer prayed to God for the believers. "For I have given unto them the words which thou gavest me; and they have received them. and have known surely that I came out from thee. and they have believed that thou didst send me. I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me: for they are Thine. And all mine are Thine, and Thine are mine; and I am glorified in them.##

At the ascension of Christ Jesus, we were given a comforter the Holy Spirit to continue to guide our lives and our beings. In our world today we live in the third person of the Trinity and it teaches us that our journeys are a spiritual one.

The World is in need of Christ' presence and the presence of Holy Spirit today. America needs Them and Christians as well. "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood. but against principalities, against powers. against rulers of darkness of this world. against spiritual wickedness in high places." Again and again, we need to be reminded of Christ' teachings.

Patrick Henry said it best. "It cannot be emphasized too strongly or too often that this great nation was rounded, not by religionists, but by Christians; not on religions, but on the Gospel of Jesus Christ. " As we look around at the failing economy. a substantial increase in even those basic needs: food. shelter, and clothing. the cost and possibly the threat of war, the struggles of leadership in our government. we are a world and a people called again to the traditional belief that Christ is the answer. His life and ministry. His sacrificial death on the cross. His glorious resurrection from the dead, His ascension into heaven, and His present with us in the power of the Holy Spirit is what gives us hope.

In this contemporary technological driven age the challenges facing Christians today are reminders of the delicateness of our walk. The Holy Spirit calls us to conviction and enables us to stand firm on the Word of God. Jude 20. "But ye Beloved build yourselves up on a most holy faith. praying in the Holy Spirit... ##Yes there is a need for transformation. we live in a transforming era. but as Christian we must rely on a higher power to guide our thoughts and lead us in the right choices.

Martin Luther once said, "A simple layman armed with Scripture is greater than the mightiest pope without it" while scripture indeed reveals the true nature, and character of God, as well as His will for the salvation of humankind through Jesus Christ. Yet, the community of believers commonly known as the church is made up of people who are neither perfect nor sinless, but by Grace, redemption comes through faith in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.



MS. KARLA DIAS Statement of Faith

I believe in the triune eternal God who is holy, sovereign, unlimited, omnipotent, omniscient, and omnipresent. I believe that God is love, and that God created the world and created us in God's image. God's providential care for us means that God is also deeply interested in humanity and that God has a plan for God's creation and creatures. However, since the beginning of our creation, people turned away from God and lived a life of sin. Even when human beings wanted to do the right thing, they played at being God, becoming idolaters, and sinned by doing things like lying, stealing, coveting, hating, and hurting others. But God, with infinite wisdom, found a way to fix this by sending God's own Son to the world, Jesus Christ, to save and redeem us.

I believe that Jesus, with great compassion and greater love came down from heaven to earth in the Incarnation as both God and human. He walked among us to teach us how to love and serve God and neighbor. He performed miracles that showed people his good purpose and revealed it for all to see that he was God. Jesus made the ultimate sacrifice for us by dying for our sins on the cross, and that he atoned for our sins and conquered death through his resurrection on the third day. We are justified and made right with God through our faith in Jesus, and this grace is our greatest gift. The resurrection provides us with the gift of salvation, eternal life with God.

When Jesus ascended into heaven, he did not leave us alone. Christ sent us the Holy Spirit, the third person of the Trinity, to comfort us, to guide us, and to manifest the fruits of the spirit in and through us. The Holy Spirit is everywhere, and is constantly at work. As Christians, we come to faith through the power of the Holy Spirit, and the Spirit gives us a taste of the Kingdom of God here on earth.

The Bible, God's Word, is inspired by God, and was recorded by humans at different points of time in history. The Bible is our authoritative guide, and it speaks to us, to how we are to live and share our faith. It is the awesome story of God's love for God's people, and Jesus is the perfect expression of God's love. The Bible helps us to know and to love God, and it teaches and encourages the church to serve God in ways that God wants and intends for humanity.

The church is the body of Christ in the world. It is people of faith who gather to worship and serve the Savior and the Lord of our lives. The church is not a building of four walls but rather a living and breathing reality that has changed much through time. One of the silver linings of Covid was the ability for God's faithful to "reimagine" the church. During the pandemic, the body of Christ did not depend on a formal sanctuary or printed bulletins to make liturgy. No, the people of God gathered in new ways, by Zoom, on face-time, or by phone, in coffee houses or homes-6 feet apart. Prayers were spontaneous, virtual hugs and making the peace sign were shared and music was offered in a variety of ways. The Spirit moved, calling forth new expressions of church and worship and it has enlivened our life together. May it continue to do so.

In worship, both the Word and Table are equally important. We celebrate two sacraments in our worship life together because Christ commanded us to. Through the presence of the Holy Spirit in the waters, we baptize in the name of the triune God and welcome individuals into God's family. The sacrament is celebrated in community. During the sacrament, the church promises to nurture the baptized in their faith. Baptism is a joyous act of the church.

The Lord's Supper is where we remember what Jesus did for us, giving his body and blood for us for the forgiveness of our sins. We partake of the bread and cup as spiritual food that nourishes us so that we



may serve Jesus with humility and love. These two sacraments are central to our worship, faith, and life together as the church. They remind of God's grace and goodness in our lives.

As a church, our mission is to be at work in the world. We are Christians on the go! We are to share the love of God found in and through Jesus, we are to do good, to be helpers, to attend to the needs of our neighbors near and far, to welcome others and express hospitality, to seek justice, to work for peace, and share the joy of our faith. We are to live a life of thankful, humble service to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

As a pastor, I believe I am called to love God with all I have got and to serve whoever, whenever, and wherever God places me. I promise to always seek the help of God in my ministry through prayer, and I will strive to serve God's people with my whole heart, energy, and good humor, being open to ministry everywhere.



MR. SAMUEL ORTIZ Statement of Motivation

To me, an Inquirer is an individual entering a pivotal season of discernment and search for God's confirmation in the calling they have felt into ordained ministry. Since I was kid, I had felt God calling me to ordained ministry. In my case, I admit, there have been several times in which I felt doubtful in answering the call. I am confident now in answering the call God has been making to me. To just refer to a few people that prompted me to apply in becoming an inquirer would not make them justice. Nonetheless, my main motivation has been my father Rev. Angel Ortiz who has taught me a Pastor's first church is their family. I can confirm he exemplifies what I believe is an anointed leader in God's kingdom. My experiences working with children, young adults, and ecumenical spaces has also helped me in expanding the many functions an ordained minister can develop in. Finally, the many congregations and community members I have met through the years also prompted me to apply. Since the work and necessities are abundant, we are called to be light. While it frightens me, being able to serve motivates me every day.



PENTECOST
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
CHILDREN AT RISK • YOUTH • YOUNG ADULTS

“I am coming to you.”

—JOHN 14:18b

The Pentecost Offering, one of our denomination’s four churchwide Special Offerings, supports ministries with children, youth and young adults in our community, across the nation and around our world.

