



ROLL CALL

ATTENDANCE TOTALS: Teaching Elders: 26, Commissioners: 25, Elders by Virtue of Office: 4, Total: 55 eligible voters. *[See Appendix, pp. 13-14]*

VIBRANT PRESBYTERY WELCOME AND OPENING PRAYER

After an opening hymn, **Moderator Deborah Sadriwalla** opened the Assembly with prayer at 9:31 am. Our new commissioners were: **Corby Bertolett** (First PC, Fort Lauderdale), **Mary Lersch** (Peace PC), and **Andrea Tomasini** (First PC, Fort Lauderdale). Our privileged guest was **Kathy Broyard** (Florida Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Network).

General Presbyter and Stated Clerk (GPSC) Daris Bultena, gave instructions that the voting would be done audibly. He then 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 August 23, 2025, as presented. *[MA]*

VIBRANT PRESBYTERY GENERAL PRESBYTER AND STATED CLERK REPORT

- That during 2025, the Session Records Review of 2024 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. Scanned PDF copies of all documents are preferred (not photographed pages).
- Those churches having completed their 2025 records review of 2024 minutes are: All Nations, Central PC, First PC-Fort Lauderdale, First PC-Stuart, First Spanish PC, First PC-Tequesta, Gardens PC, and Miami Shores PC.

SESSIONS ARE REMINDED THAT SUBMITTING RECORDS FOR REVIEW IS A CONSTITUTIONAL REQUIREMENT. ALL SESSIONS MUST COMPLETE THE 2025 RECORDS REVIEW.

- The remaining 2025 Presbytery Assembly date is November 8, and it will be in-person only. It is anticipated that the November Assembly will take place at the Vibrancy Center in Coconut Creek. Following that Assembly the Leadership Council will evaluate the format for Presbytery Assemblies in 2026.



- Received the resignation of **Rev. Angel Ortiz** from CPM and COM due to personal health reasons.
- An in-person boundaries training for ministers will be conducted later this fall. Any ministers who are due for boundaries training prior to the event, shall be held in abeyance due to their intention to attend the in-person event.
- The Vibrancy Center is “coming along.” By the second week of August, finish work will begin on the office portion of the building and it is hoped that soon that portion of the space will have functioning air conditioning. The events center area (the former sanctuary) is waiting on windows and extensive progress has been made on electrical work.

VIBRANT PRESBYTERY LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

Elder Debi Davis invited **Kathy Broyard** of Florida Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Network (FLAPDAN) to give an update on the ministry of disaster assistance. She shared a video on celebrating their 20th anniversary.

As a special recognition, Debi invited the members of **Living Faith Church** to be recognized, as the newest congregation of our Presbytery. Living Faith Church, is a union congregation between the Presbytery of Tropical Florida of Presbyterian Church (USA), and the Florida Bahamas Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. A beautiful service of chartering and celebration was conducted during the worship time.

VIBRANT LEADERS COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY (CPM)

Rev. Dr. David Massey (chair) made the following CPM recommendations:

MOTION 2: APPROVED that the Presbytery of Tropical Florida, ordain Candidate **Mr. Nathanael Hood** on behalf of Northern Kansas Presbytery that he may take up the call of First Presbyterian Church of Junction City, Kansas, and that the ordination service take place at First Presbyterian Church of Delray Beach on October 5, 2025, at 4:00 pm. **APPROVED** that the following shall serve as a commission to ordain Mr. Hood on October 5: **Rev. Dr. Daris Bultena**, RE **Deborah Sadriwalla** (Moderator; Community LBTS), **Rev. Nic Merchant** (First, Fort Lauderdale), **Rev. Amalie Ash** (First PC, Boynton Beach), **Rev. Dr. Doug Hood** (First PC, Delray Beach), RE **Rowena Avrich** (Glades PC).
[MS]

[Further, it is noted that CPM has granted permission for Mr. Hood to labor as a Student Minister at First PC Junction City beginning on August 1 with the consent of the Presbytery of Northern Kansas.]

MOTION 3: APPROVED that **Mr. Michael Mahan** (First Miami PC), a Candidate for Ministry of Word and Sacrament, having undergone and sustained his theological examination, was Certified Ready to Receive a Call. [MS - Appendix p. 20]



MOTION 4: APPROVED that Ms. Chandler Gelb be enrolled as a Candidate for Ministry of Word and Sacrament. *[MS]*

VIBRANT LEADERS COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY

Rev. Dr. Greg Rapier (member) made the following COM recommendations:

MOTION 5: APPROVED granting the Rev. Dr. David Massey the status of Retired. *[MS]*

MOTION 6: APPROVED granting the Rev. Eliane Menezes the status of Retired. *[MS]*

MOTION 7: APPROVED to ordain Mr. Michael Mahan, to the role of Transitional Pastor for Plantation Presbyterian Church, and that the ordination service take place at Plantation PC, on October 12, 2025, at 4:00 pm. *[MS]*

[The Committee on Ministry will approve the Commission to Ordain on behalf of the Presbytery.]

MOTION 8: APPROVED that the Presbytery of Tropical Florida merge the congregations of First Presbyterian Church of Stuart and First Presbyterian Church of Port St. Lucie, that the first worship service of the merged congregation shall take place on September 21, 2025, and that the Plan for Merger be approved. *[MS - Appendix pp. 21-23]*

HISTORY AND RATIONALE:

- In 2021, the two congregations began an exploration process to consider what a merged congregation might look like.
- Since 2022, the two congregations have been served by the same pastoral leader.
- In 2023, the First Port St. Lucie church entered into a Memorandum of Financial Obligation to the Presbytery in order to “seek to make a go of it.”
- As 2025 began, merger talks resumed.
- In July, both sessions voted to recommend to their respective congregations that a merger take place.

HALLMARK MOMENTS AND DATES:

- **August 10, 2025** – Both congregations vote
- **August 23, 2025** – Presbytery Assembly
- **September 14, 2025** – Both congregations worship together at First Presbyterian Church of Port St. Lucie
- **September 21, 2025** – The first worship service of the merged congregation
- **October 2025** – A plan for distribution and disbursement of the property of First PC Port St. Lucie shall be adopted by the Board of Trustees of the Presbytery at the advice and counsel of the session and Vibrant Together Development Corporation.



- **November 2025** – The merged church shall have elected and installed a new session and Board of Deacons
- **December 2025** – Bylaws for the merged church shall be adopted


VIBRANT TOGETHER MISSIONAL IDENTITY

GP/SC Daris Bultena continued with Missional Identity of the Vibrant Together 2.0 Ministry Plan. It recognizes mission as based oriented to the community in which the congregation is placed. A missional community understands itself as joining God in the mission God is doing. Based on Luke 13:10-17, the following concepts and questions were asked of individual and of congregations:

Missional Identity – Luke 13:10-17

In Jesus, we see a **MISSIONAL IDENTITY** that is influenced, shaped, and formed by how he:

- **STEPS UP** to God's Initiative
Jesus stepped up to the reign of God when he did not wait for the right conditions (the right day).
- **STEPS INTO** God's purpose
Jesus stepped into the reign of God when he did not wait for the woman to ask for help.
- **STEPS OUT** of the worldly to restore and heal creation.
Jesus stepped out of old norms and expectations to usher in a restored and healed creation.



Missional Identity as Congregations

What do we need to step out of?	What do we need to step up and into?
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Action Plan and Accountability




A Vibrant Christ-Centered Community *has*

Missional Identity

GOD'S INITIATIVE
ROOTEDNESS IN GOD'S PURPOSE
RESTORING AND HEALING CREATION

Missional Identity = Purposeful Intentional Action
Action ≠ a project orientation.
Action = stepping up and into the mission God is doing.





VIBRANT TOGETHER WORSHIP

Moderator Deborah Sadriwalla and GPSC Daris Bultena led worship that included the reception of Living Faith Church, of Traditions, Port St. Lucie as a Union Congregation with the Florida-Bahamas Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. The service was highlighted with the Signing of the Constituting Petition that chartered the church with the Presbyterian Church (USA). The offering was designated to the PC(USA) Pentecost Special Offering.



ADJOURNMENT

Moderator Sadriwalla thanked everyone for another successful assembly and adjourned the meeting with prayer at 11:47 am.



REPORTS

Report of the General Presbyter and Stated Clerk:

- That during 2025, the Session Records Review of 2024 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. Scanned PDF copies of all documents are preferred (not photographed pages).
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- The remaining 2025 Presbytery Assembly date is November 8, and it will be in-person only. It is anticipated that the November Assembly will take place at the Vibrancy Center in Coconut Creek. Following that Assembly the Leadership Council will evaluate the format for Presbytery Assemblies in 2026.
- Received the resignation of Rev. Angel Ortiz from CPM and COM due to personal health reasons.
- An in-person boundaries training for ministers will be conducted later this fall. Any ministers who are due for boundaries training prior to the event, shall be held in abeyance due to their intention to attend the in-person event.
- The Vibrancy Center is “coming along.” By the second week of August, finish work will begin on the office portion of the building and it is hoped that soon that portion of the space will have functioning air conditioning. The events center area (the former sanctuary) is waiting on windows and extensive progress has been made on electrical work.

Report of the Leadership Council:

- RECEIVED an update on the civil litigation regarding the former Grace PC property and the Presbytery’s action to secure the property in keeping with G-4.02.
- RECEIVED an update in reference to the filing by Marissa Leach with the GAPJC, which was an appeal following the Synod PJC’s denial. A hearing date is set for October 17, 2025. It is noted that Ms. Leach has failed to meet the deadline for filing a brief in the matter.

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

- APPROVED that staff be permitted to open appropriate banking accounts with the vision toward closing the accounts at our current bank.



- APPROVED that the property of First PC, Port St. Lucie be transferred to the Presbytery immediately, in keeping with the Manual of Operations stipulation on debt owed the Presbytery.

Report of the Committee on Ministry:

- APPROVED the COM minutes of May 1, 2025, and June 5, 2025, as presented.
- RECEIVED the updated Regional Charts as information for May 1, 2025, and June 5, 2025, as presented.
- RECEIVED the updated 2025 Assembly Attendance report as information.
- RECEIVED the Job Description for the Associate Pastor for Ministry Operations at First PC Fort Lauderdale and APPROVED the model of ministry including an Associate Pastor for Ministry Operations.
- APPROVED the Ministry Discernment Profile (MDP) for the position of Associate Pastor for Ministry Operations at First PC Fort Lauderdale.
- RECEIVED the Job Description for the position of Temporary Associate Pastor for Congregational Care at First PC Fort Lauderdale.
- POSTPONED ACTION in determining if Mr. Nathanael Hood would be eligible for ordination into a Temporary Associate Pastor position absent a call in hand.
- APPROVED GPSC Daris Bultena's appointing a moderator for Miami Shores Presbyterian Church beginning in July 2025.
- RECEIVED the 2025 Validated Ministry report from Rev. Jorge Sayago-Gonzalez.
- APPROVED to appoint a COM visitation team to meet with the pastor and session of Palms West PC before the next COM meeting.
- APPROVED to appoint a COM visitation team to meet with the pastor and session of Lakeside PC before the next COM meeting.
- APPROVED to recommend that the congregations of First Presbyterian Church of Stuart and First Presbyterian Church of Port St. Lucie be merged, and that the first worship service of the merged congregation shall take place on September 21, 2025, in keeping with the Plan for Merger.
- APPROVED that the Peace PC 2025 Mission Study be approved as presented.
- RECEIVED the Covenant of Closure with the Rev. Dr. David Massey.
- APPROVED that the 2025 Riviera Mission Study be approved as presented.

Report of the Committee on Ministry Acting as the Presbytery:

- APPROVED the Terms of Covenant extension between Living Faith Church and the Rev. Dr. Roger Verse, as Temporary Supply Pastor, expiring on September 30, 2025.



- APPROVED the Terms of Covenant extension between Peace Presbyterian Church and the Rev. Lonnie Darnell, as Transitional Pastor, expiring May 31, 2026.
- APPROVED the Terms of Covenant between First PC Fort Lauderdale and Candidate Nathanael Hood, as Temporary Associate Pastor for Congregational Care, for the period of six months, if the way be clear.
- APPROVED the Terms of Call between Pinecrest Presbyterian Church and the Rev. Kim Robles, as Pastor for a Two-Year Designated Term, if the way be clear.
- In lieu of a meeting of CPM and for the sake of timeliness, COM APPROVED to grant Karla Dias, a candidate for Ministry of Word and Sacrament of the Presbytery of Tropical Florida, permission to labor outside the bounds for providing pastoral care and preaching at Cypress Lakes Presbyterian Church, Ft. Myers, of Peace River Presbytery. It is duly noted that she may not celebrate the sacraments or moderate the session prior to her ordination by Peace River Presbytery on June 22, 2025.
- APPROVED that the Rev. Dr. Tim Roberts be appointed moderator of the session of First PC, West Palm Beach.
- APPROVED to grant permission for the Peace PC congregation to elect a PNC.
- APPROVED to dissolve the relationship between the Rev. Dr. David Massey and Plantation PC as of July 31, 2025, with the congregation having concurred on July 20, 2025.
- APPROVED that Rev. Dr. David Massey be recommended for retirement to the Presbytery at the Assembly on August 23, 2025.
- APPROVED the Terms of Covenant between Plantation PC and Mr. Mike Mahan as Transitional Pastor, expiring September 30, 2026, and APPROVED that he be recommended for ordination, pending action by the Presbytery Assembly to certify him Ready to Receive a Call.
- APPROVED the Terms of Covenant between Miami Shores PC and the Rev. Dr. Valdir Franca as Bridge Pastor, expiring December 31, 2025.
- APPROVED that the Rev. Dr. Valdir Franca be appointed as Moderator of the session of Miami Shores PC.
- APPROVED that the Terms of Covenant extension between New Covenant PC and the Rev. Danny Morales as Temporary Supply Pastor, expiring September 30, 2026.
- APPROVED that the way having been made clear by the Pinecrest PC congregation voting on June 22, 2025, the Rev. Kim Robles is the Pastor for a Designated Term that expires on July 14, 2027.
- APPROVED that the Rev. Kim Robles be appointed as Moderator of the session of Pinecrest PC.
- APPROVED that Riviera PC be granted permission for the congregation to elect a PNC.
- APPROVED that the Presbytery conduct an in-person Boundaries Training for ministers at the Vibrancy Center later this fall, and further that LeaderWise be contracted to conduct the event.



- APPROVED that the Rev. Eliane Menezes, be recommended for retirement to the Presbytery at Assembly on August 23, 2025.
- APPROVED the Moderators for churches without installed pastors and those with special circumstances:

NORTH	First PC, Boynton Beach	Amalie Ash (Transitional Pastor)
	First PC, Lake Worth	Paul Bayerl (<i>Administrative Commission</i>)
	First PC, Port St. Lucie	Dee Grachek (Transitional Pastor)
	First PC, West Palm Beach	Tim Roberts-ART (Moderator)
	Goodwill PC, Ft. Pierce	Ronald Evans (Stated Supply Pastor)
	Living Faith, Port St. Lucie	Roger Verse (Transitional Pastor)
	Peace PC, Stuart	Lonnie Darnell (Transitional Pastor)
CENTRAL	Ascension Peace PC, Lauderhill	Dwayne Black Jr. (Moderator)
	Community PC, Deerfield Beach	Geoff McLean (Moderator)
	Community Lauderdale-by-the-Sea	Geoff McLean (Moderator)
	Glades PC, Boca Raton	Geoff McLean (Moderator)
	Plantation, Plantation	Brice Rogers (Moderator)
	Sanctuary PC, Fort Lauderdale	Dwayne Black Jr. (Stated Supply Pastor)
	Sunset PC, Fort Lauderdale	David Massey (Moderator: June-August)
SOUTH	All Nations PC, N. Miami Beach	Danny Morales (Moderator)
	First Miami PC, Miami	Dee Grachek (<i>Administrative Commission</i>)
	First Spanish, Miami	Angel Ortiz (Transitional Pastor)
	Miami Shores PC, Miami Shores	Valdir Franca (Moderator)
	New Covenant PC, Miami	Danny Morales (Temporary Supply)
	Peace Covenant PC, Key West	Victoria Isaacs/Robert Ward (Designated Co-Pastors)
	Pinecrest PC, Miami	Kim Robles (Designated Pastor)
	Riviera PC, Miami	Melanie Marsh (Transitional Pastor)
	Sunrise PC, Miami	Yosneis Fleitas (Transitional Pastor)
	Trinity PC, Key West	Victoria Isaacs/Robert Ward (Moderator)

Report of the Committee on Preparation for Ministry:

- APPROVED the CPM meeting minutes for April 22, 2025, as presented.
- APPROVED to recommend that Mr. Michael Mahan be presented at the August 23, 2025, Presbytery Assembly for his theological exam, and having sustained the examination be certified ready to receive a call.
- APPROVED that Mr. Nathanael Hood, with a call in hand from the Presbytery of Northern Kansas to First PC of Junction City, be recommended to the Presbytery for ordination on October 5, 2025, 4:00 pm, at First PC, Delray Beach. The Presbytery is ordaining on behalf of the Presbytery of Northern Kansas, and at the request of Northern Kansas the committee has granted permission for Mr. Hood to labor as a Student Minister at First PC Junction City beginning on August 1 with the stipulation that he not moderate the session or celebrate the sacraments prior to ordination.



- APPROVED to recommend that Ms. Chandler Gelb be presented at the August 23, 2025, Presbytery Assembly as Candidate Under Care.
- APPROVED that having been certified on May 17, 2025, Ms. Mona Petersen may be removed as Under Care.

Report of the Financial Management Committee:

- APPROVED the Financial Management Committee minutes for March 24, 2025.
- APPROVED the financial reports for March, April, May, and June of 2025.
- APPROVED to recommend to Leadership Council the lease between the Community Presbyterian Church of Deerfield Beach, Inc., the Presbytery of Tropical Florida, and Steeple on the Beach Montessori School, LLC., a Florida for-profit corporation. The lease commences on 2/1/2025 and expires 5/31/2026.
- APPROVED to recommend to Leadership Council the lease between Riviera Presbyterian Church of Miami, Inc. and The Melissa Institute for Violence Prevention & Treatment, a Florida not-for-profit corporation. The lease commences on 8/1/2025 and expires 8/31/2026.
- APPROVED to recommend to Leadership Council the lease between Riviera Presbyterian Church of Miami, Inc., and Embroiders Guild of America, Biscayne Chapter, a not-for-profit corporation. The lease commences on 1/1/2025 and expires 12/31/2025.
- APPROVED to recommend to Leadership Council the lease between Riviera Presbyterian Church of Miami, Inc. and Miami Sound Space, LLC, a Florida for-profit corporation. The lease commences on 10/31/2023 with no expiration date.
- APPROVED to recommend to Leadership Council the lease between Riviera Presbyterian Church of Miami, Inc. and Step by Step, LLC, a Florida for-profit corporation. The lease commences on 6/1/2025 and expires 8/8/2025.
- APPROVED to recommend to Leadership Council the lease between Riviera Presbyterian Church of Miami, Inc. and YES Institute, a Florida not-for-profit corporation. The lease commences on 1/1/2025 and expires 12/31/2025.
- APPROVED to recommend to Leadership Council the lease between Riviera Presbyterian Church of Miami, Inc. and Sprint Spectrum Realty Company, LLC, a Delaware Limited Liability Company (for-profit). Originally dated 5/18/2000 and first amended 11/14/2006. The lease commences on 5/18 2025 for 5 years with an automatic renewal of 5 years.
- APPROVED to recommend to Leadership Council the lease between Riviera Presbyterian Church of Miami, Inc. and *Asociacion De Orquideologia De America, Inc.*, a not-for-profit corporation. The lease commences on 1/1/2025 and expires 12/31/2025.
- APPROVED to recommend to Leadership Council the lease between Goodwill Presbyterian Church, Inc., the Presbytery of Tropical Florida, and ZOE LIFE Creative Arts Academy, a not-for-profit corporation. The lease commences on 8/1/2025 and expires 7/31/2026, as the way be clear. To make the way clear the lease must be completed on the lease form.



- APPROVED to recommend to Leadership Council the lease extension between Gardens Presbyterian Church, Inc., the Presbytery of Tropical Florida, and Transformation Palm Beach County, a Florida not-for-profit corporation. The lease commences on 8/1/2025 and expires 12/31/2025.

----- *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: Denise McLeod
C: Denise Stephenson
ASCENSION PEACE-Lauderhill
TS: Kenneth White (Absent)
C: 0/2
CENTRAL-Miami
M: Mark Wright
C: Mike Mojares
C: Eliane Robinson
COMMUNITY-Lauderdale-by-the-Sea
M: [None]
EVO: Deborah Sadriwalla
C: 0/1
COMMUNITY-Deerfield Beach
TS: Skip Bush (Absent)
C: Jill Ellis
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 (Excused)
AP: Greg Rapier
EVO: Nancy Fine
C: 0/6
FIRST-Ft. Lauderdale
M: Nic Merchant
EVO: Debi Davis
C: Corby Bertollett
C: Bill Condon
C: Kathy Mayers
C: Thomas Nichols
C: James Sabin
C: Andrea Tomasini
FIRST-Hollywood
M: Kennedy McGowan (Absent)
C: 0/2
FIRST-Lake Worth
(Administrative Commission)
C: 0/1

FIRST-Pompano Beach
M: Timothy Roberts
C: Jo Dixon
C: Cheryl Loomis
FIRST-Port St. Lucie
TP: David Grachek (Excused)
C: 0/2
FIRST-Stuart
M: David Grachek (Excused)
C: 0/2
FIRST-Tequesta
M: Willy Figueredo (Excused)
C: Sandra Figueredo
FIRST-West Palm Beach
M: Jennifer Stroud (Excused)
C: 0/2
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
M: [NONE]
C: 0/1
GOODWILL-Fort Pierce
M: Ronald Evans (Absent)
C: 0/2
GRACE-Lantana | *DISSOLVED*
(Administrative Commission)
HOBE SOUND COM-Hobe Sound
M: Paul Bayerl
C: Arthur Ondich
KOREAN-Miami
M: Steven Jhu (Excused)
C: 0/4
KOREAN-Palm Beach
M: Sung Joo
C: 0/2
LAKESIDE-West Palm Beach
M: Roger Richardson (Excused)
C: 0/3
LIVING FAITH-Port St. Lucie
M: Roger Verse
C: 0/2
MIAMI SHORES-Miami
BP: Valdir Franca
C: Barbara Biggart

MYRTLE GROVE-Miami
M: Leon Lovell-Martin (Absent)
C: 0/2
NEW COVENANT-Miami
TS: Danny Morales (Excused)
C: 0/2
NEW LIFE-Miami
M: Heidi Arencibia (Absent)
C: 0/2
PALMS WEST-Royal Palm Beach
M: Ruffin Stepp
C: 0/3
PEACE COVENANT-Key West
M: Victoria Isaacs
M: Robert Ward
C: 0/2
PEACE-Stuart
TP: Lonnie Darnell
C: Donna Berger
C: Mary Lersch
PINECREST-Miami
M: [NONE]
C: Stuart Lones Jr.
PLANTATION-Plantation
M: [NONE]
C: Claire Cubbin-Will
C: Becky Rountree
RIVIERA-Miami
M: Melanie Marsh (Absent)
C: 0/2
SANCTUARY-Ft. Lauderdale
SS: Dwayne Black Jr. (Excused)
EVO: Barbara Hassall
SUNRISE-Hialeah
TP: Yosneis Fleitas
C: Crescent Scott
C: Carmen Stewart
SUNSET-Ft. Lauderdale
M: Brice Rogers
C: Neil Carr
C: Donaida Vergel
TRINITY-Key West
M: [None]
C: 0/1



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

Dennis Andrews	Excused	Roberto Hernandez	Excused	Pedro Rivera	Excused
Raymond Anglin	Excused	Ervin Joslin	Excused	Lawrence Schenk	Excused
Patricia Ashley	Excused	James S. Kirk	Excused	Diane Shoaf	Excused
James Bailey II	Excused	Elaine Klaasen	Excused	William Stepp	Excused
Dwayne Black, Sr.	Excused	Joan Leroy	Excused	John Stewart	Excused
Constance Bright	Excused	David Massey	Present	Maurice Stone	Excused
Jacqueline Brovold	Excused	James Mead	Excused	David Thomas	Excused
Connie Caldwell	Excused	Leah Meador	Excused	Carol Trax	Excused
Robert Coleman*	Excused	Eliane Menezes	Present	John Vaughn	Excused
Thomas Culberson	Excused	Mardoqueo Munoz	Excused	German Vega-Feliciano	Excused
Benjamin Davis	Excused	Wayne Myers	Excused	Roger Verse	Excused
Julio Delgado	Excused	James Nimmo III	Excused	Robert Welsh	Excused
Daniel Gerhardt	Excused	Robert Norris	Excused	Antonio Welty	Excused
Joann Germershausen	Excused	Rosalia Orta	Excused	Hai Keon Yang	Excused
Randall Gill	Excused	Joe Reggin	Excused		
James Goldsmith	Excused	Jose Rivera	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
Pamela Masten	Excused
Geoff McLean	Present
Dohyun Paik	Excused
Elizabeth Pankey-Warren	Excused
Jorge Sayago-Gonzalez	Excused
Ben Sorensen	Excused
Evangeline Tolley	Present
Tricia Young	Present

MINISTER AT LARGE (MAL)

Dawn Bryan	Absent
Katie Christie	Absent
Lucy Dergarabedian	Present
Charles Falcone	Absent
Raul Fernandez-Calienes	Absent
Linda Lader	Absent
Audley Reid	Absent
Kenneth Smith	Absent



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: _____



MICHAEL MAHAN

Statement of Faith

I believe in the triune God: God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. I believe that these three persons are one true, eternal God. I believe in God the Creator, the maker of heaven and earth, the source of all things. God is God simply because that is who God is, God is the very definition of God's attributes, giving meaning to concepts like love, mercy, and grace. God knows our nature and our wayward ways. God allows us to sin, but, in God's mercy, God has been present to lift people out of their pits. I believe that the chief purpose of every human is to glorify God.

The Holy Spirit is the giver of life and is present everywhere. I believe that through the Holy Spirit our lives are made into a new creation. By the indwelling of the Holy Spirit all believers are united to Christ and thus, as the body of Christ, to one another.

God sent Christ—fully human, fully divine—from heaven because of God's mercy and ongoing relationship with humankind. God gave Christ all power in heaven and on earth, not only in this age but also in the age to come. Jesus Christ came to be with us, suffered, died, and was resurrected so that we could have hope of eternal life. Almighty God raised Jesus Christ from the dead and set him above all rule and authority. Christ is the only savior of the world, and the true awaited Messiah, in whom by faith we are saved. I believe Christ, as the Word of God, gives the foundation upon which we are to live our lives.

I believe that Scripture, the written Word of God, is the true Word. Although the words were written by humans, I affirm that the Holy Spirit guided them and, therefore, I believe that the words in Scripture are, in fact, the true Word of God and that they are the ultimate authority. I affirm that God speaks to us through the Scriptures and that all confessions and declarations of faith are subordinate to this authority. They are the most complete exposition of all that pertains to our faith. Study of and faithful obedience to Scripture, guided by the Spirit, provides that which we need for salvation.

I believe that there is no salvation apart from Christ Jesus. The covenant of grace provides a rule of life that binds us to live in obedience to the will of God, by faith we are compelled to live a Christ-like life. Through Word and Sacrament we share in the grace of Christ, the love of God, and the presence of the Spirit. The Sacraments are Baptism and the Lord's Supper. Baptism is the sign and seal of our incorporation into Jesus Christ and the Eucharist is the sign and seal of our communion with the crucified and risen Lord.¹ God will one day judge the world; God will display mercy in the eternal salvation.

I believe that the Church is the community of the faithful who are called from the ends of the earth. The Church is one universal and united church, beyond and outside of time and distance, from the coming of Jesus in the flesh and into our time. I believe that the Spirit empowers us to live holy and joyful lives. I believe that humans are made to serve and live in fellowship, in community, to honor God, to glorify God in all we do.

¹ Book of Order, W-3.0402 & W-3.0409



The Plan for Merger of First Presbyterian Church of Port St. Lucie and First Presbyterian Church of Stuart

The Committee on Ministry (acting on August 14, 2025) and the congregations of First Presbyterian Church of Port St. Lucie and First Presbyterian Church of Stuart (acting on August 10, 2025, in separate congregational meetings) “Petitions the Presbytery of Tropical Florida to merge the congregations of First Presbyterian Church of Stuart and First Presbyterian Church of Port St. Lucie, and that the first worship service of the merged congregation shall take place on September 21, 2025, in keeping with the Plan for Merger.”

PROPOSED ACTION:

THAT the Presbytery of Tropical Florida merge the congregations of First Presbyterian Church of Stuart and First Presbyterian Church of Port St. Lucie, that the first worship service of the merged congregation shall take place on September 21, 2025, and that the Plan for Merger be approved.

History and Rationale:

In 2021, the two congregations began an exploration process to consider what a merged congregation might look like. Several conversations and opportunities were engaged to have dialogue around the issues of what is budding, what is thorny, and what smells fragrant and sweet in both congregations. These conversations yielded interest in merger and moved through both inquiry and exploration phases. The process fell short of moving into a joining phase due an inability to settle on which physical plant would be retained and which would be relinquished. Both congregations relied upon reserves and extra mile giving to meet diminishing budgets. It was decided to set aside further conversations about merger.

Since 2022, the two congregations have been served by the same pastoral leader – Rev. Dee Grachek who serves as the called/installed pastor for First Presbyterian Church of Stuart and the Transitional Pastor for First Presbyterian Church of Port St. Lucie.

In 2023, the First Port St. Lucie church entered into a Memorandum of Financial Obligation to the Presbytery in order to “seek to make a go of it” by being freed of the mortgage note and other financial day-to-day operational obstructions. By the conclusion of 2024, it became apparent that the rate of growth could not keep pace with rate of financial need resulting in an impasse of ability to resolve growing indebtedness.

As 2025 began, merger talks resumed between the two sessions, and joint session meetings/conversations were held. It was determined that the Vibrant Together Development Corporation should look at issues of sustainability and considerations of what might become of the property of First Presbyterian Church of Port St. Lucie.

By mid-year 2025, the energy for a merger was crystalizing and a commitment to coming together and utilizing the property at First Stuart Presbyterian Church emerged. In July, both sessions voted to recommend to their respective congregations that a merger take place.



Hallmark Moments and Dates:

- **August 10, 2025** – Both congregations vote upon recommendations of their sessions that the two congregations merge.
- **August 14, 2025** – The Committee on Ministry hears the recommendations of the congregations and votes in the affirmative to recommend to the Presbytery Assembly that the merger and Plan for Merger be approved.
- **August 23, 2025** – Presbytery Assembly considers and adopts the Plan for Merger making way for the merged congregation.
- **September 14, 2025** – Both congregations worship together at First Presbyterian Church of Port St. Lucie to observe a final worship in the facility. Following worship the congregations make a procession to First Presbyterian Church of Stuart in order to recognize a coming together of the two congregations.
- **September 21, 2025** – The first worship service of the merged congregation is held at First Presbyterian Church of Stuart.
- **October 2025** – A plan for distribution and disbursement of the property of First PC Port St. Lucie shall be adopted by the Board of Trustees of the Presbytery at the advice and counsel of the session and Vibrant Together Development Corporation.
- **November 2025** – The merged church shall have elected and installed a new session and Board of Deacons consisting of, as equal as practicable, former members of each congregation.
- **December 2025** – Bylaws for the merged church shall be adopted by the congregation.
- **January 2026** – A determination of congregational name shall be made.
- **July 2026** – A plan for ministry and rationale for staffing shall be considered by the session and Committee on Ministry.
- **January 2027** – An outlook for the property of the merged congregation shall be presented and considered. This outlook is based on conversation prior to the merger that even the First Presbyterian Church of Stuart may not be the ultimate location.

Property Distribution and Disbursement:

The property that the merged congregations will conduct ministry from is the current campus of the First Presbyterian Church of Stuart.

An analysis of the most beneficial options for the property of the First Presbyterian Church of Port St. Lucie shall be determined. It is noted that in addition to their being debt on the property in excess of \$200,000.00, the building shows evidence of deferred maintenance. In more than half of the building the air-conditioning is not functioning and is not repairable. The roof of the structure is in need of replacement, and city will again require extensive trimming of the unimproved portion of the property.

It is expected that a sale of the property would necessitate an “as is” sale. It may be more beneficial to retain the property and develop it for other use that would generate perpetual income for the merged church.



Asset Management:

The assets of both congregations, real and otherwise shall be managed for the benefit of the merged church in keeping with the policies of the Presbytery of Tropical Florida. The indebtedness shall be re-paid by whatever plan is devised for the former First Presbyterian Church of Port St. Lucie property.

Name:

Beginning on September 21, 2025, the merged congregation shall use the name First Presbyterian Church of Stuart. No later than January 2026, the session shall determine what name the church utilizes in its ministry.

Corporate Entity:

The corporate charter and Articles of First Presbyterian Church of Stuart shall constitute the corporate entity of the merged congregation.

Bylaws:

The session of the merged congregation shall recommend bylaws as necessary and practicable to the congregation for adoption by December 2025.

Pastoral Leadership:

Rev. Dee Grachek has served at the called/installed pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Stuart (Terms of Call) and as the Transitional Pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Port St. Lucie (Terms of Covenant). Because the call of First Presbyterian Church of Stuart is not being dissolved, it is appropriate that he continue to serve as the called pastor of the merged church with Terms of Call that included cash/housing at \$72,500 and additional benefits. By July 2026, the session shall have completed an analysis of staffing for the merged church that examines the staffing needs that include, but are not limited to, pastoral staffing.