

HANDBOOK FOR Savannah Presbytery

625th Session
Spring Stated Meeting

October 23, 2018



Montgomery Presbyterian Church Savannah, Georgia



Savannah Presbytery

SCHEDULE

9:00 AM	Registration Begins
9:15 AM	Commissioner Orientation
10:00 AM	Meeting Begins
12:00 PM	Lunch
1:00 PM	Reconvene
4:00 PM	Meeting Adjourned



(Intentionally blank)

Welcome

The Session and members of Montgomery Presbyterian Church extend a warm welcome to our Savannah Presbytery brothers and sisters in Christ. During this time of transition, we are pleased to be able to host Presbytery and appreciate this opportunity to be a part of the larger church. We hope that you enjoy our hospitality as we gather for our common ministry and mission.

Rev. Jeff Myers

History

Montgomery had its beginnings in 1915 as a Sunday School, meeting in the home of Dr. and Mrs. Newell Turner, which is where the former church manse stands today. With 18 charter members, Montgomery was served by volunteer ministers from various churches. Two years later, the Sunday School moved to the Montgomery School building and in 1928 became affiliated with Independent Presbyterian Church as Montgomery Chapel. By 1934, Montgomery had grown to 97 members, and the Rev. Bonneau Dickson was called as pastor. Montgomery's women's organization was also formed that year.

In 1938, the Sanctuary and Education buildings were built, and Henry Ford donated the pulpit furniture. Membership quickly grew to 218 members. In 1944, Montgomery Presbyterian Church joined Savannah Presbytery and continued to expand its facilities and its membership. The 1950s saw much activity, with a new manse built, a kindergarten school was opened, a radio ministry was undertaken, and the first Boy Scout troop was chartered. During that time, Montgomery Presbyterian was named Georgia's Rural Church of the Year (1953).

The growth and expansion continued until 1969 when membership began to decline. During the next 14 years, Montgomery was served by interim and part-time pastors. In 1982, Rev. Ronald Stone was called as pastor and served for two years, followed by Rev. Charles Gregory Darden who served from 1984-1990. During his tenure, Montgomery again flourished and undertook new activities including a food pantry and Wednesday Bible Study. In 1988 Montgomery's women's organization became officially known as Presbyterian Women.

Rev. Darden was succeeded by Rev. Paul Saleeby who served through 1992. A series of interim pastors served the Church over the next several years, and membership began to decline. Rev. Fairy Caroland served as pastor from 1998-2001 and was succeeded by Rev. Dr. Mark Giuliano in 2002.

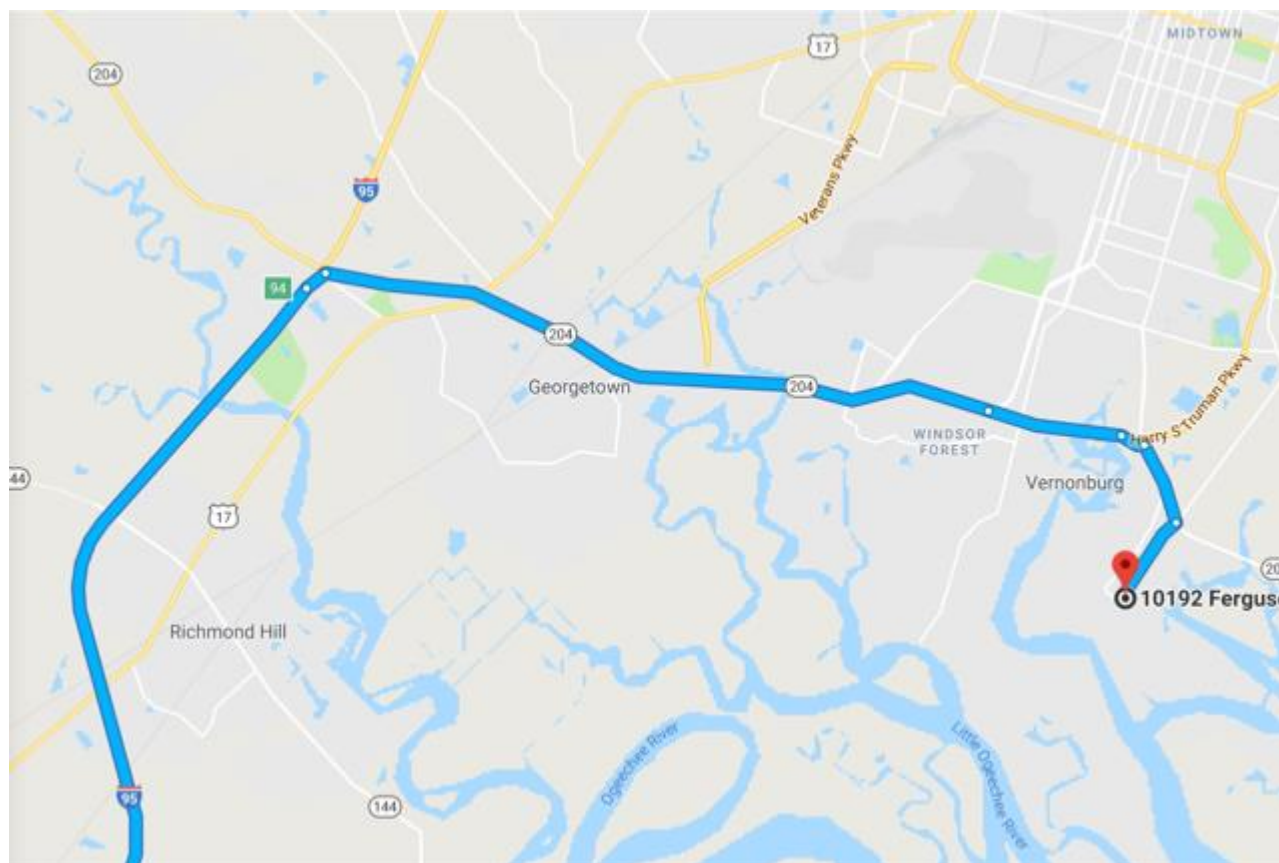
Beginning in 2002 under the leadership of Dr. Giuliano, Montgomery's membership nearly tripled to over 200 members and was the fastest growing Presbyterian Church (USA) in southeast Georgia. In 2004, an expansion project to renovate and expand the sanctuary, construct a new narthex, and renovate the Turner Educational Building was undertaken. The new sanctuary, complete with a custom designed stained-glass window, was dedicated on November 14, 2004.

In 2009, Rev. Craig Pope became the pastor of Montgomery Presbyterian Church. He led the church for over five years and continued to expand its programs and mission work. Rev. Pope enhanced the outstanding music ministry of MPC by sharing his musical talents with the congregation.

From 2016 to early 2018, Montgomery Presbyterian Church was led by Rev. John Ruehl who added a faith band ministry to the services.

Montgomery Presbyterian Church is a city-wide church of welcome and is looking forward to continued growth and opportunities to serve.

Directions to Montgomery Presbyterian Church Savannah, Georgia



Directions to Montgomery Presbyterian Church

Please note: Mileage information is approximate. Once you exit either I-95 or I-16, please allow 35-45 minutes of travel time before you arrive at the church. If you would like information on surrounding hotels, please call the church at 912-352-4400 for the closest location.

From Vidalia/Statesboro/Dublin/Eastman areas: *(From Eastman take GA-46/GA-117 towards I-16.)* Take I-16 East towards Savannah. Take exit #164A which is I-516 E/GA-21/Lynes Parkway. This is approximately the 3rd Savannah exit after I-16 crosses I-95. Follow I-516/Lynes Parkway 5.4 miles (it will become DeRenne Avenue) Take a right on Waters Avenue and go 4.6 miles (Waters will become Whitfield Avenue). Take a right on Ferguson Avenue. Montgomery Presbyterian Church will be on the left (you will pass a Baptist church before you get to Montgomery). There is parking on both sides of the Church.

From Waycross/Brunswick/St. Simons/St. Marys/Douglas areas: *(From Douglas take GA-32 towards I-95 approximately 90 miles; it will become GA-99/Grants Ferry Road about 5 miles before I-95. From Waycross, you will take US-82 South towards Brunswick to get to I-95).* Take I-95 North towards Savannah. Take exit #94 Savannah/Pembroke which is GA Hwy 204 heading east toward Savannah (this is also known as Abercorn Extension). Stay on this for 10.4 miles to Montgomery

Crossroad and take a right. Take Montgomery Crossroad 1.3 miles to Waters Avenue and take a right. Stay on Waters 2.5 miles (it will become Whitfield Avenue), then take a right on Ferguson Avenue. Montgomery Presbyterian church will be on the left (you will pass a Baptist church before you get to Montgomery). There is parking on both sides of the Church.

From Jesup/Hinesville areas: *(From Jesup, take US-84/GA-38 east towards Hinesville, approximately 30 miles, and then follow directions from Hinesville).* From Hinesville, take US-84/GA-38 East approximately 5 miles. Take a left onto GA-196 East/Fleming Station Road towards I-95 approximately 9 miles. Take I-95 North towards Savannah. Take exit #94 Savannah/Pembroke which is GA Hwy 204 heading east toward Savannah (this is also known as Abercorn Extension). Stay on this for 10.4 miles to Montgomery Crossroad and take a right. Take Montgomery Crossroad 1.3 miles to Waters Avenue and take a right. Stay on Waters 2.5 miles (it will become Whitfield Avenue), then take a right on Ferguson Avenue. Montgomery Presbyterian church will be on the left (you will pass a Baptist church before you get to Montgomery). There is parking on both sides of the Church.

Stated Meeting Notes and Announcements

- **Handbook:** Please print a copy and bring your handbook with you to the meeting. Take time to familiarize yourself with the contents of this handbook. Please read all material carefully prior to coming to the meeting. Handbooks are posted before each presbytery meeting. To be good stewards of the presbytery's resources, we ask that each church print out copies for the pastor, clerk, and Elder Commissioner.
- **PLEASE CHECK WITH YOUR ELDER COMMISSIONER TO MAKE SURE THAT THEY HAVE A COPY OF THIS HANDBOOK.**
If they do not, you can get a copy from the presbytery office, or download it from the website.
- **Excuses:** If a Minister or Elder Commissioner cannot attend the meeting, a written request for excuse is required. You can email it to bsutton1@savannahpresbytery.org or mail it to Savannah Presbytery, 3590 Darien Highway, Suite 8, Brunswick, GA 31525.
- **Registration & Lunch:** Registration begins at 9:00 AM. Lunch will be served around noon at a cost of \$10.00. **PLEASE BRING A CHECK OR EXACT CHANGE.**
- **Session Minutes Readings:** Minutes are no longer read during the Stated Meeting. Please complete the Minutes checklist, find another clerk and swap minutes. Bring your signed checklist to Stated Clerk, Russell Gladding for his records and signature.

PLEASE NOTE: The Minutes of the last Stated Meeting are on our website, www.savannahpresbytery.org. These will be voted for approval at the Stated Meeting, please download and review these prior to the presbytery meeting in preparation to vote for their approval. If you are unable to get them from the website, a paper copy can be provided by the presbytery office. Please contact Liz Richardson, mrichardson@savannahpresbytery.org; or Russell Gladding at, rgladding@savannahpresbytery.org; or call Savannah Presbytery at 1 (800) 616-3671.

Docket

625th Session of Savannah Presbytery, Fall Stated Meeting October 23, 2018

We are called by God to this Time and Place.
 We gather in Worship to praise God for all we are and are to be.
 We seek to honor God in the work we do this day,
 for all moments are holy as we seek God's will for God's Church.
 We welcome all to this gathering and seek to fellowship together as we celebrate
 the gift of all life and of our individual lives by God's grace.
 May you find today that you have been blessed
 through the ordinary as well as in the extraordinary,
 for we are standing, in all our days, on Holy Ground!

9:00 AM	Registration Begins	
9:15 AM	First Time Commissioner Orientation – RE Jean Vernon	
10:00 AM	Opening Prayer and Call to Order – TE Ozeas Silva, Moderator Welcome to Montgomery Presbyterian Church – Welcome & Organization – Moderator Ozeas Silva Quorum & Appointment Standing Committees Introduction of First Time Attendees and Visitors Requests for Voice on the Floor Approval of Minutes: May, 2018 (as submitted online) Docket/Handbook/Adoption of Docket – Stated Clerk	
10:15 AM	Worship – Preaching – Rev. Taylor Lewis Guthrie Hartman Liturgist – Rev. Rachel Greiner	
11:00 AM	Graduation School of the Laity Class of 2018	
11:30 AM	Special Reports- Sherri Bozart – Thornwell TE Trip Mckinnon – Circle of friends	
12:00 PM	Lunch	
1:00PM	Reconvene – In Memoria – A Service of Necrology Moderator, TE Ozeas Silva General Presbyter, Russell Gladding, CRE Hymn – “For All the Saints”	11-12
1:30 PM	Report of the General Presbyter, Stated Clerk, and Treasurer	13-21
1:45 PM	Report of GA-223 Commissioners TE John Ruehl and RE Paul Pressley	22-24
2:00PM	Report of Stewardship and Finance Committee RE Paul Scott	24

2:15 PM	Report of Savannah Presbytery Council RE Johnye Gillans, Moderator	24-25
2:30PM	Team and Committee Reports: Action Items only. Committee on Ministry—TE Andy Meeker Committee on Preparation for Ministry –TE Alan Dyer Discipling and Education Team –TE Jamil el-Shair & TE Will Shelburne Mission Ministry Team – TE Steve Tisinger	25-26
3PM	Report of Presbyterian Women RE Molly McCarthy and Charlotte Goff	26-27
3:15PM	Committee on Resolution and Thanks	27
3:30 PM	Adjourn with Prayer	

*Action items are those that either require a vote of the Presbytery or are important invitations for participation within the Presbytery.

Save the Date

Winter Stated Meeting
St. Simons Presbyterian Church
Friday, February 15, 2019

Spring Stated Meeting
Skidaway Island Presbyterian Church
Tuesday, May 21, 2019

Fall Stated Meeting
FPC St. Marys
Tuesday, October 22, 2019

Savannah Presbytery Commissioners		
Church	Minister Members Serving Churches	Ruling Elder Commissioner(s)
Allenhurst	Ben Beasley	Jean Ann Lingle
Altama	Trip McKinnon	Cathy Cox
Blackshear	Hampton Williams	
Brunswick Second	**Benjamin Holmes, CRE, Stated Pastor	
Butler Memorial	Don Johnson	
Christ	Kenneth McKenzie	
First, Brunswick	Chris Noyes	Arthur Cook
First, Darien	Richard Grice, Stated Pastor	
First, Douglas	Don Dilley, Stated Pastor	
First, Eastman	**Louis Buckner, CRE Supply Preacher	
First, Saint Marys	Rick Douylliez	Cliff Davenport
First, Savannah	Stephen Williams	
	William Shelburne, Associate Pastor	
First, Statesboro	Taylor Lewis Guthrie Hartman	
Flemington	Greg Loskoski	
Fort Frederica	**Danny Grace, CRE, Stated Pastor	Steve Horstman
Grant Chapel	VACANT	
Henry Memorial	VACANT	Eileen Buckhouse
Jekyll	Bert Cramer, Stated Pastor	Chris Zerkus
Jesup	Pete Ullmann	Charlene Hand
McGregor	Wayne McDaniel, Stated Pastor	
McRae	*Norwood Davidson, Supply Preacher	
Metter	Mark George, Stated Pastor	Julie Roberts (Alt. Cliff Hendrix)
Midway First	Jamil el-Shair	Rodney Fuller
Montgomery	VACANT	Wendy Wolverton
Peabody Heights	*David Muntford, Stated Pastor	
Riceboro	*Janet Odegaard, Supply Preacher	
Richmond Hill	Ed Ayers, Stated Pastor	Rodney Denmark
Saint Simons (2)	Alan Dyer	
	Annie Franklin Arvin, Associate Pastor	
	Jann Briscoe, Parish Associate,	
Skidaway Island	Jeff Garrison	Laurel McKeith
	Deanie Strength, Parish Associate	
Iglesia Latina at Swainsboro	Ozeas Silva, Stated Pastor	
Vidalia	Proctor Chambliss, Stated Pastor	
Walthourville	VACANT	
Washington Street	Ricky Porter	Eugene Smith
White Bluff	Eric Beene,	Ruth Love
Wilmington Island	Andy Meeker	Sue Burdette

* indicates a non-voting minister as Interim or Supply who is not a member of Savannah Presbytery

** indicates a Commissioned Ruling Elder whose vote counts as an Elder Commissioner, not as a Minister Commissioner

Voting Minister Members

*Required to Attend Presbytery Meetings

*Active Minister Members

Members serving Validated Ministries beyond the jurisdiction of the church (G-2.0503)

Mary Beene, Openings: Let the Spirit In
Nelle Bordeaux, Outreach/New Member Pastor at
Wesley Monumental UMC
Stuart Fletcher, Savannah Korean PC
Rachel Greiner, Chaplain, Memorial Hospital
Kathi Parchem, Interim Pastor, Monticello PC
Choongyun Yu, Pastor, Immanuel PC.....

Honorably Retired Members

Art Bishop.....
Bob Brearley.....
John Bressler.....
George Brink
Fairy Caroland.....
**Bert Cramer.....
Don Dilley
Tom Dunlap.....
**Richard Grice.....
Harry Horne
Larry Kennon.....
John Law.....
Diane Lovin
Bob Morgan
Bill Platt.....
**Wayne McDaniel.....
Thomas Mueller.....
Carl Schlich
Steve Tisinger
Jessie Truvillion.....

*Members at Large (G-2.0503B)

Mark George.....
John Ruehl.....
Claire Williams.....

**Listed also as a pastor of church

***Listed also as Elder Commissioner

Other Voting Members

*Officer of the Presbytery

Russell Gladding, General Presbyter/Stated
Clerk/Treasurer

*Presbytery Council

** Ozeas Silva, Moderator
Johnye Gillans, Moderator of Council
**Alan Dyer
Paul Scott
**Andy Meeker
**Ed Ayers
**Will Shelburne
**Ben Beasley
**Jamil el-Shair
Molly McCarthy, PW President

Presbytery Staff

(NV) Liz Richardson . Business Administrator
Stephen Tisinger Assoc. Presbyter Mission

(NV) – Nonvoting

In Memoria, A Service of Necrology

For All the Saints, Who From Their Labors Rest... We Remember and Give Thanks to God

Leader: God of our history, God of the Church, God of Savannah Presbytery: We thank You for Your Spirit, poured out on all who have served You so faithfully, whom You have welcomed into that great church triumphant. For those who endured, even in the midst of threats and persecutions:

People: **God of life -- Creator, Sustainer, and Redeemer – we give You great thanks.**

Leader: For those who believed in your ever-renewing spirit; for those who refused glory because they followed Christ's example of humbleness and humility:

People: **God of life – Creator, Sustainer, and Redeemer – we give You great thanks.**

Leader: For those who have opened long-closed windows for the fresh air of Your Spirit and doors to allow others to enter freely into the joy of Your family of faith:

People: **God of life – Creator, Sustainer, and Redeemer – we give You great thanks.**

Leader: For those who have been steadfast in the struggle for Your kingdom:

People: **God of all life – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – we give You thanks and praise.**

ALL: **Lord of all, we remember today and celebrate the lives of those from our ranks who have helped keep our faith alive. We give special thanks for those who have run the race, fought the good fight, and now rest from their labors in Your eternally loving arms. Thank You for their faithfulness and service in life and for their full realization now in death of the certainty of resurrection and new life. You have welcomed them, O Lord, into the great church triumphant. Help us to welcome and bless their memory now.**

(A time of silent prayer and remembrance as names are read by leader)_

Church Triumphant May 2017 -September 2018

Teaching Elders

Grady Allison
Bob Allman

Commissoned Ruling Elders

Metter	Joseph Ivey Anderson, Sr.
Ruling Elders	
Altama	Ronald Polmanteer
	Lamar Alexander
Butler	Jacquelyn Byers Johnson
FPC Brunswick	Linda Watts Chamberlain
	Monte Korb
	Lou McDonald
FPC St. Marys	Lorna Gant
	Emily Rollins Morrissey
FPC Savannah	Charlotte Conn Ferris
Henry Memorial PC	Margaret New
	Thomas “Tommy” Patterson
	Grady Phillips
	Harlon “Skip” Spivey
	Carl Williams
Jesup	Bud Frankenthaler
Montgomery	Henry Barthe
St. Simons	Wells Kilgore
Skidaway	Wendell Bobbitt
	Earl Crew
	Bob Harris
	Al Steuben
	Sandy Trice
Washington Street	Roscoe Brower
White Bluff	Charles Aimone
	Mary C. Beene
	Glenda Johnson
	Jim Langenfeld
Deacons	
FPC St. Marys	Seleta Shaw London Stacy
White Bluff	Pat Tracy

Reconvene with Song and Prayer

TE Ed Ayers

Report of the General Presbyter

CRE Russell Gladding

In January of 2016 representatives of all our congregations met at St. Simons Presbyterian Church to discuss the future of Savannah Presbytery. I said at that time, and on other occasions, that I would be leaving as your General Presbyter and that I hoped it would be the end of 2019, if you wished for me to remain for those four years.

Today we find ourselves nearing 2019. What will come next? As an update on where I am, I will take my last (I hope and pray) ordination exam this coming Saturday. I also hope and pray I will complete my unit of Clinical Pastoral Education on December 12. If the way be clear, I will ask the Committee on Preparation for Ministry to examine and certify me ready to receive a call in late December or early January. As you know, in our Presbyterian system there is no guarantee of a call, but it rests in God's providence. Hopefully, as I have been feeling for some time, my call will be found with a small member congregation. My wish is to keep Savannah Presbytery in this loop so that a smooth transition can occur for all concerned. I will not leave the Presbytery in the lurch. Any call I contemplate would have to allow for this transition. The Savannah Presbytery Council has been working for some time on two proposals for the future, but nothing at this time has been firmed up on either. The Council will be meeting again in November to continue to plan for the future with these and possible other options.

Please keep the Council and me in your prayers as we seek God's will in this time and all times. Grace and Peace be with you all.

Report of the Stated Clerk

CRE Russell Gladding

Recommendations:

1. All committee chairs will have the responsibility to put their memberships into three (3) classes for 2019 – one year, 2020-two years, and 2021- three years. Please forward copies of these to the Stated Clerk. Starting in 2019, nomination of new members for 2022, three year term, will be done by September,2019 so the election of these new members will be approved at the Stated Meeting in October, 2019. This shall be an ongoing process each year. Chairs and their members will adhere to the need for diversity in representation with regard to race, gender, all districts and congregations in the presbytery, and all other mandates in the Book Of Order listed under the Committee on Representation.

The Members on Teams and Committees may serve a second three year term. However, no one shall serve more than six years without rotating off the committee for one year.

Exceptions to this provision may only be granted by the Savannah Presbytery through its Committee on Ministry.

Rationale:

Over the past four or five years our nominating committee ceased to function and the records of the rotation of members on Teams and Committees of the Presbytery were neglected. The result has been that some people have worked many more than six years and teams have not functioned in a necessary and healthy way. Calling meetings and determining agendas have too often been left to staff, which in turn has caused the rolls and records to be neglected by staff.

The proposed recommendation is thus a return to what our polity calls for. But more than that it is a call for more Ruling Elder participation in the life and work of the Presbytery. This in turn points to our Teaching Elders to be involved in helping to identify and encourage REs from your congregations to get involved on a committee or team without a life sentence.

It is hoped that all ordained TEs and REs will renew the vow made at ordination to be active in the government of the Church, serving in its Counsels...

Information:

1. Amendments to the Constitution of the PC USA have been distributed to all members and Commissioners today. It is your responsibility to read and understand these or to make sure the commissioner to the February, 2019 Stated Meeting has the information so he/she may be informed. Minister members and commissioners should come prepared to vote on these amendments at the February, Stated Meeting at St Simons PC on Friday, February 15, 2019.
2. Aa Administrative Commission will be appointed by the Stated Clerk in consultation with the Rev. Taylor Lewis Guthrie Hartman and the Committee on Ministry to conduct a Service of Installation as Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Statesboro. The date and time of this service will be determined in consultation with the Session at FPC and Taylor. Notice of the service will be published through Email, E-News and our website.
3. Clerks of Session are advised the Reporting of Church Statistics for 2018 will be open on December 7, 2018. Please start early this year to avoid the system slowdown as we near the deadline in February. There is a new system this year which will be a little different. Hopefully it will be an improvement. Thanks for all you do in your important role in the church.
4. Minutes of the Service(s) for Ordination of the Rev. Elisabeth Jean (Betsy) Stow and for Ordination and Installation of the Rev. Annie Franklin Arvin are attached to this report.

SAVANNAH PRESBYTERY

MINUTES OF Ordination OF Elisabeth Jean (Betsy Stow)

The following members of the Commission appointed by Savannah Presbytery were present, and met at Allenhurst Presbyterian Church in Allenhurst, GA on August 5, 2018 for the purpose of fulfilling the task given by Savannah Presbytery.

<u>TE Ozeas Silva</u>	<u>CRE, Russell Gladding</u>
<u>RE, Charles Rogers</u>	<u>TE, Rev. Rick Douylliez</u>
<u>TE, Rev. Ben Beasley</u>	<u>RE Glen Howard</u>
<u>RE, Jean Vernon</u>	<u>RE, Johnye Gillans</u>

The meeting was opened with prayer by Moderator Elect RE Johnye Gillans and General Presbyter/Stated Clerk Russell Gladding was elected Secretary for the commission.

In conformity with the Book of Order:

1. The sermon was preached, by Dr. Leanne Van Dyk, President of Columbia Theological Seminary
2. Constitutional questions were proposed to the minister by CRE Russell Gladding
3. Constitutional questions to the congregation were asked by RE Jean Vernon
4. The charge to the minister was given by TE, Rev. Rick Douylliez
5. The charge to the congregation was given by RE Johnye Gillans
6. Following The Lord's Supper and the singing of a final hymn the benediction was pronounced by TE, Rev. Elisabeth Jean (Betsy) Stow.

THE CANDIDATE WAS ASKED THE CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS AND ANSWERED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE AND UPON BEING ASKED THE CONGREGATIONAL QUESTIONS, THE CONGREGATION ANSWERED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE.

Minutes were approved as written and the meeting was closed with prayer by the pronouncing of the benediction.



Stated Clerk

SAVANNAH PRESBYTERY

MINUTES OF Ordination and Installation OF Annie Franklin Arvin

The following members of the Commission appointed by Savannah Presbytery were present, and met at St Simons Presbyterian Church on St Simons Island, GA on August 26, 2018 for the purpose of fulfilling the task given by Savannah Presbytery.

<u>TE Ozeas Silva</u>	<u>CRE, Russell Gladding</u>
<u>RE, Johnye Gillans</u>	<u>TE, Rev. Ozeas Siva</u>
<u>TE, Rev. Ed Ayers</u>	<u>RE Leslie McCracken</u>
<u>RE, Anne Stembler</u>	<u>TE, Rev..Deanie Strength</u>
TE, Rev. Will Shelburne	

The meeting was opened with prayer by Moderator Elect TE Ozeas Silva and General Presbyter/Stated Clerk Russell Gladding was elected Secretary for the commission.

In conformity with the Book of Order:

1. The sermon was preached, by the Rev. Dr. Samuel Adams, Professor of Old Testament, Union Theological Seminary
2. Constitutional questions were proposed to the minister by CRE Russell Gladding
3. Constitutional questions to the congregation were asked by RE Leslie McCracken
4. The charge to the minister was given by TE, Rev. Deanie Strength
5. The charge to the congregation was given by TE Rev. Will Shelburne
6. Following The Lord's Supper and the singing of a final hymn the benediction was pronounced by TE, Rev. Annie Franklin Arvin

THE CANDIDATE WAS ASKED THE CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS AND ANSWERED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE AND UPON BEING ASKED THE CONGREGATIONAL QUESTIONS, THE CONGREGATION ANSWERED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE.

Minutes were approved as written and the meeting was closed with prayer by the pronouncing of the benediction.



Stated Clerk

Report of the Treasurer CRE Russell Gladding

Information:

1. Savannah Presbytery is in a solid financial position. The Balance Sheet through September 30, 2108, shows a Current Ratio of 26.3 to 1. All bills are current.
2. Our Assets in the New Covenant growth Fund now equal \$1,182,847.31. Good Stewardship of this account calls for preserving it, as we also determine how to use it in perpetuity to do ministry for the glory of God both new and in the future of Savannah Presbytery.
3. The Profit and Loss versus Budget through yesterday shows we are 93% on our Unified Pledge Income versus Budget for 2018. Our total income is \$339,609 or 83.3% YTD versus Budget. Expenses through yesterday equal \$353,619 or 78.2%. This gives a deficit of \$14,010, versus a budget of minus \$63,844.53.
4. Although we are running less deficit than projected, the per capita payments to the general assembly and Synod have not been paid. The total of these is \$44,452. However, we also are expecting an additional \$25,000 in income from a General Assembly grant for Circle of Friends, account no. 3000A2. This money is expected to be received in November. So the actual increase in the deficit would be approximately \$19,000 additional.
5. Several items that I would call attention to is the Presbytery office operation expense 7001K appears to exceed the budget by \$12,000. However, item 7001kz4, Faith PC expense equals \$10,502. This amount is offset by account 6005D Faith PC income equaling \$14,128.
6. Today you received with your packet a flyer concerning a matching grant for up to \$50,000. This grant is from an anonymous donor and will match dollar for dollar our actual giving in the unified pledge income the amount that exceeds our giving in 2017. This flyer is on the Presbytery website and can be downloaded and used as a bulletin insert. Pastors and commissioners are urged to challenge your congregations during this last 60 days to give over and above and help your Savannah Presbytery in maximizing this grant in the mount of \$50,000.

Balance Sheet
As of September 30, 2018

11:41 AM
10/17/2018
Cash Basis
Sep 30, 18

ASSETS

Current Assets

Checking/Savings

01 · Atl Natl - UNIFIED CHECK 3103 (Atlantic National Checking)	3,979.83
02 · Atl. Nat'I - Unified MM 0495 (UNIFIED MONEY MARKET)	926.18
03 · Atl. Nat'I -Selected MM 0503 (MONEY MARKET)	43,789.37
04 · Atl Natl - Special Uses/Scholar (Special Uses/Scholarship)	10,367.14
06 · BoA Ck -MK Pentecost Ecology (M.K. Pentecost Fund / Ecology Checking)	353.81
07 · BoA MM - MK Pentecost Ecology (M.K. Pentecost Fund Ecology - Money Market)	11,361.07

Total Checking/Savings 70,777.40

Other Current Assets

17 · CD - Habersham Clay	30,000.00
18 · CD - Presb. Investment Prog	37,628.60
19 · New Covenant Fund	1,182,847.31
38 · Note Afr Amer Cong	2,150.00
39 · Note Receivable -Iglesia Latina	3,194.00

Total Other Current Assets 1,255,819.91

Total Current Assets 1,326,597.31

Fixed Assets

50 · Office Equipment	57,769.18
52 · Office Bldg - Rt 17	115,000.00
53 · Equip for Ecology	571.00
54 · Leasehold Improvements	29,344.36
60 · Accumulated Depreciation	-131,596.74
71 · Accum Depreciation Ecology	-523.42

Total Fixed Assets 70,564.38

Other Assets

72 · Note Receivable Christ PC	22,000.00
73 · Note Receivable - PC Midway	5,904.90

Total Other Assets 27,904.90

TOTAL ASSETS 1,425,066.59

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Liabilities

Current Liabilities

Other Current Liabilities

005 · Payroll Liabilities	2,168.00
010 · Accrued Expenses	570.50

Total Other Current Liabilities 2,738.50

Total Current Liabilities 2,738.50

Total Liabilities	2,738.50
Equity	
003 - Fund Balance (Retained Earnings)	703,029.28
004 - Opening Bal Equity	291,697.49
008 - Fund Balance Ecology	35,168.35
Net Income	<u>392,432.97</u>
Total Equity	<u>1,422,328.09</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u><u>1,425,066.59</u></u>

Savannah Presbytery				9:32 AM
Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual - Report				10/22/2018
January through December 2018				Cash Basis
	Jan - Dec 18	Budget	\$ Over Budget	% of Budget
Ordinary Income/Expense				
Income				
1000 - Unified Pledge INcome				
p1 - PLDG - Allenhurst	4,500.00	4,500.00	0.00	100.0%
p2 - PLDG - Altama	600.00	600.00	0.00	100.0%
p3 - PLDG - Blackshear	0.00	500.00	-500.00	0.0%
p4 - PLDG - Brunswick Second	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
p5 - PLDG - Butler Memorial	3,867.00	6,000.00	-2,133.00	64.45%
p6 - PLDG - Christ PC	900.00	0.00	900.00	100.0%
p9 - PLDG - First Brunswick	12,500.00	15,000.00	-2,500.00	83.33%
p10 - PLDG - First Darien	3,082.50	3,000.00	82.50	102.75%
p11 - PLDG - First Douglas	5,000.00	5,250.00	-250.00	95.24%
p12 - PLDG - First Eastman	2,000.00	0.00	2,000.00	100.0%
p13 - PLDG - First Hinesville	3,305.00	3,305.00	0.00	100.0%
p14 - PLDG - First Midway	130.00	0.00	130.00	100.0%
p15 - PLDG - First Saint Marys	14,568.00	17,550.00	-2,982.00	83.01%
p16 - PLDG - First Savannah	13,500.00	18,000.00	-4,500.00	75.0%
p17 - PLDG - First Statesboro	9,166.66	11,000.00	-1,833.34	83.33%
p18 - PLDG - First Waycross	9,669.00	9,669.00	0.00	100.0%
p19 - PLDG - Flemington	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
p20 - PLDG - Frederica PC	3,500.00	0.00	3,500.00	100.0%
p21 - PLDG - Grant Chapel	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00	100.0%
p22 - PLDG - Henry Memorial	4,000.00	0.00	4,000.00	100.0%
p43 - PLDG - Hinesville Korean	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
p23 - PLDG - Jekyll PC	6,000.00	6,000.00	0.00	100.0%
p24 - PLDG - Jesup PC	5,400.00	7,200.00	-1,800.00	75.0%
p25 - PLDG - Lyons PC	2,400.00	2,400.00	0.00	100.0%
p26 - PLDG - McGregor	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
p27 - PLDG - McRae	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
p28 - PLDG - Metter	0.00	1,300.00	-1,300.00	0.0%
p29 - PLDG - Montgomery	7,504.66	10,000.00	-2,495.34	75.05%
p31 - PLDG - Peabody Heights	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
p32 - PLDG - Riceboro	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
p33 - PLDG - Richmond Hill	7,500.00	0.00	7,500.00	100.0%
p34 - PLDG - Saint Simons PC	55,000.00	66,000.00	-11,000.00	83.33%
p36 - PLDG - Skidaway Island	11,430.00	15,240.00	-3,810.00	75.0%
p37 - PLDG - Swainsboro	1,350.00	1,800.00	-450.00	75.0%
p38 - PLDG - Vidalia	5,625.00	7,500.00	-1,875.00	75.0%
p40 - PLDG - Washington Street PC	4,500.00	6,000.00	-1,500.00	75.0%
p41 - PLDG - White Bluff	9,000.00	0.00	9,000.00	100.0%
p42 - PLDG - Wilmington Island PC	14,000.00	18,000.00	-4,000.00	77.78%
Total 1000 - Unified Pledge INcome	220,997.82	235,814.00	-14,816.18	93.72%
2000 - Education & Training Income				
2001 - Summer Camp Income	10,828.00	17,000.00	-6,172.00	63.69%
2002 - Montreat Youth Conference - Inc	8,045.00	12,000.00	-3,955.00	67.04%
2005 - LDC - Laity - Inc	11,759.00	13,750.00	-1,991.00	85.52%
2006 - School of the Laity - Inc	12,014.00	10,500.00	1,514.00	114.42%
Total 2000 - Education & Training Income	42,646.00	53,250.00	-10,604.00	80.09%
3000 - Mission - Inc				
3000A - Mission Team Inc.				
3000A2 - Crosswalk Grant - Inc	0.00	25,000.00	-25,000.00	0.0%
Total 3000A - Mission Team Inc.	0.00	25,000.00	-25,000.00	0.0%
Total 3000 - Mission - Inc	0.00	25,000.00	-25,000.00	0.0%
4000 - Other Income				
4003 - Interest Income (Interest)	81.58	135.00	-53.42	60.43%
4008 - PILP Investment CD - Inc	165.94	220.00	-54.06	75.43%
4009 - Jean Alexander Fund CRT- Inc (Charitable Re	320.36	445.00	-124.64	71.99%
40010 - BofA - Habersham Clay CD -Inc	-141.06	200.00	-341.06	-70.53%
Total 4000 - Other Income	426.82	1,000.00	-573.18	42.68%
6000 - Miscellaneous Other Income				
6002 - Annual Inc/New Covenant	31,636.00	31,636.00	0.00	100.0%
6003 - Special Offering				
6003A - PC Swainsboro Air Conditioning	3,600.00	3,600.00	0.00	100.0%
6003B - McGregor Desig Youth	0.00	1,200.00	-1,200.00	0.0%
Total 6003 - Special Offering	3,600.00	4,800.00	-1,200.00	75.0%
6005 - Misc.				
6005D - Faith PC	14,128.42			
6005 - Misc. - Other	25,798.40	15,000.00	10,798.40	171.99%
Total 6005 - Misc.	39,926.82	15,000.00	24,926.82	266.18%
6000 - Miscellaneous Other Income - Other	375.50	41,000.00	-40,624.50	0.92%
Total 6000 - Miscellaneous Other Income	75,538.32	92,436.00	-16,897.68	81.72%
Total Income	339,608.96	407,500.00	-67,891.04	83.34%

Expense				
7000 - Team & Committee Expenses				
7001 - Presbytery Council				
7001A - General Presbyter/S Clerk/Treas				
7001A1 - GP/SC/Treas - Salary -	18,395.04	23,855.95	-5,460.91	77.11%
7001A2 - GP - Housing - Exp	24,185.48	30,550.00	-6,364.52	79.17%
7001A3 - GP - Social SecurityPymt -Exp	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%
7001A4 - GP/SC/Treas - Cont. Ed	1,303.79	1,500.00	-196.21	86.92%
7001A5 - GP/SC/Treas - Travel -Exp				
7001A5a - Auto Allowance - Exp	6,637.86	7,000.00	-362.14	94.83%
Total 7001A5 - GP/SC/Treas - Travel -Exp	6,637.86	7,000.00	-362.14	94.83%
7001A6 - GP/SC/Trea - Board of Pension	20,246.10	24,295.32	-4,049.22	83.33%
7001A10 - GP/SC/Treas Allow in Lieu FICA	2,666.52	4,162.00	-1,495.48	64.07%
Total 7001A - General Presbyter/S Clerk/Treas	73,434.79	91,363.27	-17,928.48	80.38%
7001D - Business Administrator				
7001D1 - Business Admin Salary - Exp	36,618.70	46,255.18	-9,636.48	79.17%
7001D2 - Pension and Major Medical - Exp	18,429.60	22,006.56	-3,576.96	83.75%
Total 7001D - Business Administrator	55,048.30	68,261.74	-13,213.44	80.64%
7001G - Staff Assoc/Communication - Exp				
7001G - Staff Assoc/Communication - Exp	9,278.72	20,242.84	-10,964.12	45.84%
7001I - Gen Assembly & Synod Expense				
7001I1 - G.A. Per Capita -Exp	0.00	37,227.68	-37,227.68	0.0%
7001I3 - Synod - Per Capita -Exp	0.00	7,224.00	-7,224.00	0.0%
Total 7001I - Gen Assembly & Synod Expense	0.00	44,451.68	-44,451.68	0.0%
7001J - PCUSA Conference Attendance				
7001J - PCUSA Conference Attendance	333.94	4,000.00	-3,666.06	8.35%
7001K - Presbytery Office Operating Exp				
7001Kz4 - Faith PC - Exp	10,501.66	0.00	10,501.66	100.0%
7001Ka - Recording Clerk - Exp	150.00	225.00	-75.00	66.67%
7001Kd - Electricity and Gas - Exp	3,084.23	3,000.00	84.23	102.81%
7001Ke - Telephone and DSL - Exp	5,152.46	2,000.00	3,152.46	257.62%
7001Kf - Water - Exp	437.74	500.00	-62.26	87.55%
7001Kg - Insurance - Exp	6,776.50	11,000.00	-4,223.50	61.61%
7001Kh - Postage - Exp	589.59	750.00	-160.41	78.61%
7001Ki - Legal Fees - Exp	0.00	1,000.00	-1,000.00	0.0%
7001Kj - Supplies - Exp	1,829.53	1,000.00	829.53	182.95%
7001Kk - Audit - Exp	0.00	3,500.00	-3,500.00	0.0%
7001Kl - Equipment Contracts - Exp	10,511.05	6,000.00	4,511.05	175.18%
7001Kn - Equipment Purchase - Exp	3,869.37	2,000.00	1,869.37	193.47%
7001ko - Building Maintenance - Exp	5,832.84	8,500.00	-2,667.16	68.62%
7001Kp - Webpage Maint - Exp	263.01	1,000.00	-736.99	26.3%
7001Kq - Software - Exp	1,584.75	1,300.00	284.75	121.9%
7001Kr - Staff Travel Expenses - Exp	0.00	100.00	-100.00	0.0%
7001Ks - Pastoral Relations - Exp	2,986.06	3,000.00	-13.94	99.54%
7001Kt - Misc. Service Charges	245.00	300.00	-55.00	81.67%
7001Kx - Council Miscellaneous	11,367.95	8,000.00	3,367.95	142.1%
7001Kz2 - Payroll Expense	5,686.05	6,200.00	-513.95	91.71%
7001kz3 - Payroll Direct Deposit - Exp	176.00	250.00	-74.00	70.4%
Total 7001K - Presbytery Office Operating Exp	71,043.79	59,625.00	11,418.79	119.15%
Total 7001 - Presbytery Council	209,139.54	287,944.53	-78,804.99	72.63%
7002 - Church & Polity				
7002B - COM Cmte - Exp				
7002Bd - Emergency Pastoral Contingency	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00	100.0%
7002Be - COM Cmte Team -Exp	2,088.72	2,500.00	-411.28	83.55%
Total 7002B - COM Cmte - Exp	3,088.72	3,500.00	-411.28	88.25%
7002D - CPM - Exp				
7002Db - Inquirers, Candidates, CRE	0.00	1,000.00	-1,000.00	0.0%
7002Dc - Inquirers, Cand, CRE Misc. Exp.	0.00	500.00	-500.00	0.0%
Total 7002D - CPM - Exp	0.00	1,500.00	-1,500.00	0.0%
Total 7002 - Church & Polity	3,088.72	5,000.00	-1,911.28	61.77%
7003 - Discipling Education & Training				
7003O - Iglesia Latina	25,000.00	30,000.00	-5,000.00	83.33%
7003N - African-American Ministry	19,093.30	23,100.00	-4,006.70	82.66%
7003A - Team Expense	317.90	13,300.00	-12,982.10	2.39%
7003B - School of the Laity - Exp	13,300.63	15,000.00	-1,699.37	88.67%
7003D - LDC Expense	15,848.14	16,900.00	-1,051.86	93.78%
7003H - Montreat Youth Conference - Exp	10,355.47	12,000.00	-1,644.53	86.3%
7003J - Camps - Summer - Exp	18,896.10	18,750.00	146.10	100.78%
Total 7003 - Discipling Education & Training	102,811.54	129,050.00	-26,238.46	79.67%
7006 - Mission				
7006S - Trip Subsidy for Participants	1,000.00	3,000.00	-2,000.00	33.33%
7006Q - Associate Stipend	3,600.00	4,800.00	-1,200.00	75.0%
7006R - Domestic Mission				
7006R2 - Domestic Mission Support	0.00	1,000.00	-1,000.00	0.0%
7006R1 - Crosswalk	32,760.50	37,500.00	-4,739.50	87.36%
Total 7006R - Domestic Mission	32,760.50	38,500.00	-5,739.50	85.09%
7006A - Mission Ministry Team Exp	0.00	1,000.00	-1,000.00	0.0%
7006P - International Mission	1,218.66	1,000.00	218.66	121.87%
7006K - Thornwell Home for Children	0.00	550.00	-550.00	0.0%
7006M - Presbytery Youth Mission Trip	0.00	500.00	-500.00	0.0%
Total 7006 - Mission	38,579.16	49,350.00	-10,770.84	78.18%
Total 7000 - Team & Committee Expenses	353,618.96	471,344.53	-117,725.57	75.02%
Total Expense	353,618.96	471,344.53	-117,725.57	75.02%
Net Ordinary Income	-14,010.00	-63,844.53	49,834.53	21.94%
Net Income	-14,010.00	-63,844.53	49,834.53	21.94%

Reports of General Assembly-223 Commissioners

Rev. John G. Ruehl, IV General Assembly Report

Dear Members of Savannah Presbytery,

I would like to thank you for commissioning me to serve as the Teaching Elder Commissioner for the 223rd General Assembly of the PC(USA). Along with Paul Pressly and Wyman Bailey, I enjoyed this experience greatly. I found it to be an inspiring snapshot into how our denomination seeks to conduct the practical work of holding various perspectives in a healthy tension. For the average member in the conversation of ministry and mission at the local church level, I would imagine that the spectrum of points of view around the table at this national meeting might be startling. But I was personally reaffirmed in my belief that our polity, and the way we strive to conduct our work in a world of vast diversity, is one of the shining examples of the strength of our reformed theological and denominational tradition.

For my part, I was assigned to serve on the General Assembly Procedures Committee – something to which I initially was not too excited to invest myself. Upon entering into the business of the committee, however, I found the discussion and the process for evaluation and amending our recommendations energizing and engaging. I was even able to broker an amendment to per capita during a deadlocked debate, which ended up being our committee's recommendation on the floor of the general meeting.

Aside from the exciting world of per capita, our committee also discussed recommendations about allowing Youth Advisory Delegates and Theological Student Advisory Delegates a full vote when it comes to choices for the moderators of General Assembly, language amendments to our statistical reports (and how to strive to be more inclusive), and the budgets of various commissions at the national level of our denomination.

The preaching and corporate worship times were inspiring and challenging. The debates on the floor of the general meeting were respectful and even-handed. Various perspectives were shared, prayers were offered – particularly during times of contentious debate – and votes were cast. At the conclusion of business we can all say our voices were heard and God is God of the conscience.

I can tell you with confidence that the Co-Moderators the assembly elected, Vilmarie Cintron-Olivieri and Cindy Kohlman, are gifted and talented leaders. They will serve our denomination well over the course of the next three years. I can also tell you that our Stated Clerk, J. Herbert Nelson, is an inspiring, measured, but prophetic voice who is doing a good job as well.

Again, my sincere thanks for sending me as a representative of the Savannah Presbytery. If you have any questions or concerns about the agenda of our business from this year's GA, I'd be happy to discuss my perspective further. I'd also enjoy answering any questions about what GA is like – for those who have never been.

May God's Grace and Peace envelop us all. May the assurance of God with us bear us up as our Church seeks to be faithful in the ministry and mission of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Paul M. Pressly

General Assembly Report

My main concern going into the General Assembly in St. Louis this past June was the stunning loss in members in the Presbyterian Church USA and the uneasy search for how our church can regain its vitality as a vessel of the Lord. How do we make the gospel culturally accessible to the present age without compromising it? I had the words of Timothy Keller ringing in my ears, “It is now time to think like a missionary – to formulate ways to communicate the gospel that both confront and engage our increasingly non-Christian culture.”

What were my takeaways from the General Assembly?

1. I was deeply impressed by the worship services at the Assembly and the quality of preaching in service after service. It was moving to take communion at a table made from the white oak pieces taken from the pews of the College Avenue Presbyterian Church where its minister, Elijah Lovejoy, an abolitionist, was murdered in 1837. It was riveting to listen to the Chief of Navy chaplains, RDM Margaret Gibbens, speak to engaging eighteen-year-old sailors who had never darkened the door of a church or synagogue and how, when senior officers asked her about the morale of the sailors, she followed up by asking, “How are you? How is your moral compass?” I came away feeling that we are very much a living church capable of finding a prophetic voice in a secular age.
2. At a dinner hosted by the Board of Pensions, the Rev. Frank Clark Spencer, chairman of its board, gave out welcomed news. The Presbyterian Church USA is growing and growing at a rapid rate in 10 “hot spots” around the United States. Dynamic congregations and presbyteries exist. Everyone leaned forward in their chairs. Spencer pointed to a 13 percent growth in the combined membership of churches in 10 large urban areas, seven of them in the South, four of them in North Carolina, and three located in Washington, D.C., Pittsburgh, and Chicago.
3. The term “decently and in order” took on new meaning for me in a four-hour debate over whether the Presbyterian Church should divest its holdings of securities of energy companies. The debate was spirited, heated, and sometimes emotional. To my astonishment, the majority report recommending divestiture was defeated; the minority report recommending keeping “a seat at the table” was approved. The proponents of keeping a seat at the table made a powerful argument why our church can effect change as part of a coalition of associations with 30 trillion dollars in assets.
4. I was caught off guard by the proposal to move Martin Luther King’s “Letter from a Birmingham Jail” toward confessional status. That letter is one of the greatest documents of why Christians cannot remain silent in the face of massive injustice to come out of the 20th century. It is both a strategic vision and a tactical plan. But I never thought of this letter as a confession of faith. I assumed that a confession of faith is a statement issued by a church council over matters of faith and beliefs. Then I had to stop and think. The Heidelberg Confession was written by a single man, Zachariah Ursinus. I still have reservations about a document that is concerned as much with tactics as it is with strategic vision but am reassured by the lengthy process of review and study that is involved.
5. The greatest concern was to see the perilous financial position of our denomination. At the General Assembly, we voted on changes that will cost about \$900,000 to implement. Only two ways can that sum be secured, either by cutting current staff and programs or jacking up the Per Capita requirement. The Presbyterian Church USA has chosen the latter path and increased the

Per Capita requirement by 15 percent. How many presbyteries can afford this increase and will fulfill this commitment?

Finance & Stewardship Committee

RE Paul Scott

Recommendations:

1. The Stewardship and Finance Committee recommends to the Presbytery that we continue to operate under the 2018 budget numbers until a new budget can be developed.

Rationale: The Stewardship and Finance Committee hope that the 2019 Budget may be presented at the February, 2019 Stated Meeting, or at the earliest possible date, for approval. With issues of transition still unresolved the committee is not able to bring a new proposed budget at this time.

Information:

1. Please make every effort to help your Savannah Presbytery take advantage of an extra \$50,000. See the card passed out today in your packet. It is also on our website where you can download it and use it for a bulletin insert. We need every member and every commissioner to get behind this opportunity. It's a great time to tell your congregations about what the Presbytery is doing with our programs, our mission and ministry efforts throughout southeast Georgia and beyond.

The report below will give you the numbers for your churches giving through 2017. It will also show what your giving was at the end of September, 2017 versus September, 2018. Stewardship & Finance challenges you to increase your giving in the remainder of this year. Our combined efforts here is worth \$50,000 toward continuing our ministry as Savannah Presbytery.

Savannah Presbytery Council

RE Johnye Gillans, Moderator

Information only:

1. The Mt Vernon property was sold for \$10,000 to Better Together Ministries after Eviction notice was given.
2. The council approved hiring Kathy Gladding on an hourly basis as needed to assist Liz in the office with administrative and secretarial duties through December 2018.
3. The SP Council will have a called meeting on November 13, 2019 to continue to look at the future plans for 2019 and beyond. A report will be coming to the Presbytery at the Winter Stated Meeting of a plan for moving forward.

4. The SP Council approved a promotion of the \$50,000 Challenge Grant given to the Presbytery. For every dollar given in 2018 above the giving in 2017 an anonymous donor will match us dollar for dollar up to \$50,000. Today you were given a sample of a handout which can be downloaded and printed as an insert in your church bulletin. The Council urges our commissioners and members to get behind this and reap the Maximum of \$50,000 toward completing our 2018 budget in the black. Let your Session and congregation know they can make this happen. Every extra dollar helps!

Team & Committee Reports: Action Items Only.

Committee on Ministry

TE Andy Meeker

Recent COM actions:

- On behalf of the Presbytery, acted to dissolve the pastoral call and relationship between Rev. John Ruehl and Montgomery Presbyterian Church.
- Approved Rev. Dr. Ricky Porter's contract with Henry Memorial Presbyterian Church to serve as their part-time Stated Pastor even as he continues to be the Pastor of Washington Street Presbyterian Church.
- Approved Montgomery Presbyterian Church's interim pastor job description and terms.
- Approved First, Darien's Ministry Information Form as they continue the process of search for and calling a pastor.
- The First, Eastman Administrative Commission has requested that a Nominating Committee be formed for the purpose of electing elders to serve on the Session. This request was approved. Once a Session is elected, trained and installed, the Administrative Commission will be dismissed with thanks.
- Approved recommending for churches' consideration a 2.8% Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for 2019 as they consider pastor's terms of calls and other employee compensation in the near year.

Committee on Preparation for Ministry

TE Alan Dyer

Discipleship & Education Training Ministry Team

TE Jamil el-Shair & TE Will Shelburne

Mission Ministry Team TE Steve Tisinger

Report on Presbyterian Women RE Molly McCarthy

In June your Savannah Presbyterian Women went against tradition! After having to cancel our Fall Gathering in 2017 due to Hurricane Irma, we wanted to do something different and not the usual gathering that we have had year after year. We had talked at our Coordinating Team meetings of what we would like to do in the future. Several things were thought about and discussed. We wanted a retreat of some kind, nothing big, just a chance to come together and enjoy each other's company. No business meetings, speakers or overnight stays. Just casual and fun for all! Thus the idea was formed of a "Retreat and Rejuvenate" day. Thanks to Montgomery Presbyterian Women and Church for hosting our event.

Our goal was to have about 60 or more women to attend and also for the first time we had prepaid registration forms with the day's activities listed. Needless to say our prayers were answered! After adding and subtracting, last minute walk-ins, we reached our goal! We started this event with a welcome and greetings from the host church, followed by prayer and a hymn. Then we went to the start of one of our two workshops for the morning sessions, lunch, and then our last workshops in the afternoon. Three workshops were going on at the same time with six different themes to choose from throughout the day.

With flip flops being chosen to go with our beach theme, and name tags reflecting that, at the last minute we told everyone to find the color of flip to go with your flop and sit with them at lunch! This gave everyone a chance to talk and share and learn about other women in our Presbytery.

We ended the day with door prizes by turning your name tag in for the drawing till all the "doors" were gone, then closed with a hymn and a prayer, asking all to join hands with each other.

Yes, we had a different kind of gathering, but one that brought new ladies to a Presbyterian Women's event. It showed we can do something away from traditions of the past. From the surveys turned in, everything was positive and all wanted another one next year. Well... stay tuned, there's one being planned in the works. Details will follow at a later date.

In August your Presbytery was represented by Molly McCarthy and Charlotte Goff at the Churchwide Gathering in Louisville, Kentucky. This event is held every three years. Thanks to Rev. Ben Beasley for the commissioning service at Allenhurst Church which included the whole church by the laying of hands on us at the closing prayer. What a wonderful send off for both of us.

Meantime, make your plans to attend the Annual Gathering, Saturday, January 26, 2019, to be held at White Bluff Presbyterian Church. More information is being released by our District Representatives for this event! Check your mail boxes, either at church or home, to all Moderators or Contact person for your PW.

Report from Presbyterian Women from 2018 Church-Wide Gathering

Charlotte Goff

Presbyterian Women's Church-Wide Gathering is held every third year. The theme of 2018 was **“Arise, shine, your light has come!”**

It is an opportunity for women to gather from across the world for worship, education, community building, fun, and renewal. We are blessed to have inspiring speakers. The gathering was held at the Galt House in Louisville, Ky. Registration began on Wednesday, August 1, 2018. The PW's triennial business meeting was held on August 1. The budget for the next three years was approved. Motion carried to allow Board of Directors to serve a rotation every three years. Acceptance of slate of officers, to include board, was approved. New Moderator for Presbyterian Women (2018-2021) is Jyung In Lee.

Each morning and evening plenary sessions were conducted. Speakers addressed a number of topics. Each plenary had a worship service. During the day we could choose to attend different classes on a much smaller scale. All three authors of the Bible study by Horizon were present and gave informative sessions.

One of the interesting classes was presented by J. Herbert Nelson II on “The View from Here: The Future of the PC(USA).” He spoke about the road to mission at our doorstep.

The Global Marketplace featured a variety of nonprofit and trade organizations that represented artisans from many parts of the world. We had exhibits from 34 different agencies. It allowed us to take a piece from across the world into our home to treasure and remember this experience forever.

Three different tours were offered: Presbyterian Center Tour, Louisville Mission Tour, and Southern Indiana Mission Tour. A book group was held each afternoon, and books had been assigned for reading prior to the Gathering. Each synod had a lunch for their area on Saturday. Also, on Friday at 4:45 pm a Stepping Out for Justice and Peace March was held in streets of Louisville. The theme was “Ninth Street Divide.” This was a witness against segregation and racism around the country.

The Gathering ended on Sunday morning after worship and the sharing of the Cup and Bread.

Committee on Resolution and Thanks

Adjournment with Prayer

Save the Date

Winter Stated Meeting
St. Simons Presbyterian Church
Friday, February 15, 2019

Spring Stated Meeting
Skidaway Island Presbyterian Church
Tuesday, May 21, 2019

Fall Stated Meeting
FPC St. Marys
Tuesday, October 22, 2019