

Presbytery of Southwest Florida

Minutes of the 94th Stated Meeting

Saturday, February 8, 2014

1 The Presbytery of Southwest Florida held its 94th Stated Meeting on Saturday, February 8, 2014
2 at Grace Presbyterian Church of Lake Suzy, FL (10548 SW County Road 769, Arcadia, FL
3 34269).

4 **Call to Order**

5 The retiring Moderator, RE Jean Owens, called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

6 **Constituting Prayer**

7 RE Jean Owens offered the constituting prayer.

8 **Introduction of New Moderator**

9 RE Owens introduced the new Moderator, TE Dwight Dolby (Auburn Road Presbyterian Church
10 in Venice, FL). TE Dolby read Psalm 84:1-7 and prayed. He then gave words of instruction re-
11 garding the Worship Service.

12 **Worship Service – Grace PCA**

13 TE Sammie Brooks of Grace Presbyterian Church led the morning Worship Service. TE Jeff
14 Skipper, candidate for Associate Pastor of Church of the Redeemer in Winter Haven, preached a
15 sermon titled, “When Jesus Says, ‘Come!’” from Matthew 14:22-33. This was followed by a
16 service of the Lord’s Supper, which was served by TE Dwight Dolby.

17 Following the Worship Service, a short recess was taken to prepare for the seminar.

18 **Seminar on the Insider Movement by Dr. David Garner**

19 The Moderator called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m.

20 TE Steve Casselli introduced Dr. David Garner, who led a seminar on the topic, “The Insider
21 Movement.” The seminar concluded at 11:00 a.m., which was followed by a recess.

22 **Welcome of Commissioners**

23 The Moderator called the meeting to order at 11:11 a.m. and opened in prayer.

24 TE Sammie Brooks (Grace PCA) welcomed the commissioners to the church facility and pro-
25 vided directions for comfort of the commissioners and others in attendance.

26 **Roll Call - Attendees**

27 The following Teaching Elders were in attendance:

28 TEACHING ELDER ATTENDANCE

	TEACHING ELDER	CHURCH, MINISTRY, OR STATUS	May 12	Sep 12	Nov 12	Feb 13	May 13	Sep 13	Nov 13	Feb 14
1	Aldrich, Kenneth	Covenant Life PCA	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
2	Arnold, Darrell	Without Call	P	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
3	Bennett, Drew	Church of the Redeemer PCA	P	E	P	P	P	E	P	P

Presbytery of Southwest Florida

Minutes of the 94th Stated Meeting

Saturday, February 8, 2014

4	Bergman, Brent	Grace Community PCA	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
5	Brevick, Arnold	First PCA	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
6	Brooks, Sammie	Grace (Lake Suzy) PCA	P	A	A	P	P	P	P	P
7	Brubaker, Robert	Christ Community (Clear.) PCA	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
8	Burrige, Robert	Out of Bounds (Director, GIRS)	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	P
9	Byrne, Robert	Cornerstone PCA	P	E	P	P	E	E	E	P
10	Casselli, Stephen	Holy Trinity PCA	P	P	P/E	P	E	P	P	P
11	Caswell, Lyle	Christ Community (Lake.) PCA	P	P	P	A	P	P	P	A
12	Clark, John	Honorably Retired	HR	HR	HR	HR	HR	HR	HR	HR
13	Culbertson, Rodney	Out of Bounds (with RTS)	E	A	E	E	A	E	E	E
14	Dalton, Daniel	Seminole PCA	P	P	P/E	P	P	P	P	P
15	Davis, Daryl	Stated Supply (2011)	P	A	A	A	P	P	A	P
16	Dolby, Dwight	Auburn Road PCA	P	P	P	E	E	E	P	P
17	Etienne, Esaie	MTW	A	A	A	A	A	P	A	P
18	Eudaly, Dustyn	Holy Trinity PCA	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	P
19	Fritz, Freddy	Tampa Bay PCA	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
20	Gibson, Dax	Christ Community (Lake.) PCA	P	P	P	E	E	P	E	E
21	Grady, John	Faith (Sarasota) PCA	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
22	Graham, John	Honorably Retired	HR	HR	P	HR	HR	HR	HR	HR
23	Hamm, Ted	Cornerstone of L. Ranch PCA	P	P	P	P	P	E	E	E
24	Hansen, Steven	Redeemer (Riverview) PCA	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
25	Harding, David	St. Petersburg PCA	P	P	P/E	P	P	E	E	E
26	Hart, Zane	Covenant Life PCA	*	*	P	P	P	P	P	P
27	Henderson, Geoffrey	Mission (Bradenton)	*	*	*	*	E	P	P	A
28	Holland, Wesley	Westminster PCA	P	P	P/E	P	P/E	P	E	P/E
29	Jeanet, Steven	Covenant Life PCA	P	P	P	P	E	P	P	P
30	Johnston, Quentin	Out of Bounds (CHA)	A	A	E	A	E	E	A	A
31	Keen, John	Seminole PCA	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	E
32	Kloth, Cory	Cypress Ridge PCA	P	P	E	P	P/E	E	P	P
33	Lamb, Andrew	MTW	P	E	E	P	E	P	E	E
34	Lambert, Ivan	Without Call	A	A	P	P	P	P	A	P
35	LaPointe, Peter	Christ the King PCA	P	P	P	E	P	P	E	P
36	Larrison, Brook	Faith (Wauchula) PCA	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	P
37	Lee, Jeff	RUF at USF	E	E	P	P	P	P	P	A
38	Light, Steven	Holy Trinity PCA	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P/E
39	Luchenbill, Thomas	Cypress Ridge PCA	*	*	*	*	*	P	P	P
40	March, Brian	Trinity PCA	*	*	*	*	*	*	P	P
41	Martin, David	Redeemer (Lakeland) PCA	P	P	E	P	P	P	E	P
42	Matlack, Kenneth	MTW	E	E	E	P	A	E	E	E
43	Mawhinney, Scott	Covenant Life PCA	P	P	E	P	P	P	P	P
44	McDonald, Jeff	Covenant (Lakeland) PCA	P	P	P/E	E	E	P	P	P
45	McWilliams, David	Covenant (Lakeland) PCA	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
46	Nichols, James	Tampa Bay PCA	*	*	*	*	*	P	E	A
47	Rice, Tim	Trinity PCA	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
48	Roldan, William	Honorably Retired	P	P	P	P	A	P	HR	P
49	Sandhoff, Thomas	Honorably Retired	E	HR	E	HR	P	HR	HR	HR
50	Saville, David	Westtown PCA	*	*	*	*	*	A	P	P
51	Schneider, Thomas	Covenant (Sebring) PCA	*	*	*	*	P	P	P	E
52	Sidebotham, Thomas	Honorably Retired	HR	P	HR	HR	HR	HR	P	P
53	Sinclair, Steven	Christ the King PCA	A	E	E	P	P/E	P	E	E
54	Swartz, Craig	Redeemer (Riverview) PCA	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P

Presbytery of Southwest Florida

Minutes of the 94th Stated Meeting

Saturday, February 8, 2014

55	Taylor, Frank	Westtown PCA	P	A	P/E	A	P	A	P	E
56	Turner, Benjamin	Trinity PCA	*	*	*	*	*	*	P	P
57	Winfree, Jonathan	Christ the Redeemer PCA	P	E	P	P	P	P	P	P
58	Woods, Philip	Cornerstone of L. Ranch PCA	*	*	*	*	*	*	P	E

P = Present; **E** = Excused; **A** = Absent Without Excuse; **HR** = Honorably Retired; * = Not a Presbytery Member

The following churches had a commissioner/s in attendance:

CHURCH ATTENDANCE

	CHURCH	May 12	Sep 12	Nov 12	Feb 13	May 13	Sep 13	Nov 13	Feb 14
1	Auburn Road / Venice	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
2	Berea / Winter Haven	P	P	A	P	A	P	A	P
3	Christ Community / Clearwater	A	P	P	A	P	P	P	P
4	Christ Community / Lakeland	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
5	Christ the King / Seminole	P	P	P	P	P	P	A	P
6	Church of the Redeemer / Winter Haven	A	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
7	Cornerstone of Lakewood Ranch / Bradenton	A	P	P	A	P	P	P	E
8	Cornerstone / Lutz	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
9	Covenant / Lakeland	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
10	Covenant / Sebring	A	P	P	P	P	A	P	A
11	Covenant Life / Sarasota	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
12	Cypress Ridge / Winter Haven	P	A	A	A	A	P	A	A
13	Faith / Sarasota	A	P	A	P	A	A	A	A
14	Faith / Wauchula	P	E	P	P	A	P	A	P
15	First / North Port	A	P	E	P	A	A	A	A
16	Grace / Lake Suzy	P	A	A	A	P	A	P	P
17	Grace Community / Palm Harbor	A	A	A	A	P	A	P	A
18	Harbor Community Mission / Bradenton	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
19	Holy Trinity / Tampa	P	P	P	A	P	A	P	P
20	Redeemer / Riverview	A	A	A	P	P	P	A	A
21	Redeemer / Lakeland	P	A	A	E	P	P	A	A
22	Seminole / Tampa	E	P	E	E	E	P	A	P
23	Sojourner Mission / Tampa	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
24	St. Petersburg / St. Petersburg	P	A	P	A	A	A	A	A
25	Strong Tower Mission /Lakeland	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
26	Tampa Bay / Tampa	P	P	P	P	A	P	P	P
27	Trinity / Lakeland	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
28	Westminster / Brandon	P	P	E	P	P	P	E	P
29	Westtown / Tampa	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A

P = Present; **E** = Excused; **A** = Absent Without Excuse; * = Mission / Dissolved

The following Ruling Elders were in attendance: Rodney Edwards (Auburn Road), Joel DeVictoria (Berea), Erik Roldan (Berea), Heath Glandon (Christ Community), Barth Smith (Christ the King), Henry Vierling (Christ the King), Gene Lanehart (Church of the Redeemer), Chris Volf (Cornerstone – Lutz), Bill Campbell (Covenant – Lakeland), Allen Montgomery (Covenant – Lakeland), Gordon Shaw (Covenant Life), Emerson Jones (Faith – Wauchula), John Bower (Grace – Lake Suzy), George Brown (Grace – Lake Suzy), David Greenwald (Grace – Lake Suzy)

Presbytery of Southwest Florida

Minutes of the 94th Stated Meeting

Saturday, February 8, 2014

zy), Peter Prior (Grace – Lake Suzy), Robert Rhodes (Grace – Lake Suzy), Don Bennett (Holy Trinity), Jean Owens (Redeemer – Riverview), Matthew McKenzie (Seminole), Bert Barber (Tampa Bay), Stan McMahan (Trinity), and David Crabtree (Westminster – Brandon).

The following Candidates, Licentiates, and Interns were in attendance:

CANDIDATES, LICENTIATES, AND INTERNS ATTENDANCE

	CANDIDATES, LICENTIATES, AND INTERNS	May 12	Sep 12	Nov 12	Feb 13	May 13	Sep 13	Nov 13	Feb 14
1	Abel, Matt (CAND/INTERN)			P		P			
2	Anderson, Charles (CAND/INTERN)							P	P
3	Ardon, Willy (CAND)							P	P
4	Bennett, Rick (CAND/INTERN/LIC)								
5	Cleveland, Christopher (CAND/LIC)						P	P	P
6	DeVictoria, Joel (CAND)	P					P		P
7	Elswick, Antony (CAND)						P	P	
8	Gawrych, Garry (CAND)						P	P	
9	Glandon, Heath (CAND/INTERN)			P		P	P	P	P
10	Kemp, Jeremy (CAND/INTERN)						P	P	P
11	Knecht, Jason (CAND)								
12	Krause, Jeff (CAND/INTERN)								
13	Malloy, Gabriel (CAND)								
14	McMahan, Stan (CAND/LIC)		P				P	P	P
15	Price, Blake (CAND)						P		
16	Pruitt, Chris (CAND)						P		P
17	Ragsdale, Joe (CAND)								P
18	Roldan, Ricky (CAND)		P	P					

P = Present; * = Status Changed

Introduction of Visitors

The following visitors were introduced or signed in as attending: Jeff Skipper (Church of the Redeemer), John Kelley (HR), Andy Mitchell (Grace – Lake Suzy), Steve McInerney (Grace Community), Barbara Handay (First), Dave Enslow (Covenant Life), David Cruz (Berea), Miguel Cruz (Berea), Ralph Gross (First), Joyce (First), and Magda DeVictoria (Berea).

Declaration of a Quorum

The Clerk declared that a quorum was present.

Adoption of the Docket and Special Orders

By common consent the docket was adopted. [See Appendix A.]

The Moderator set the following Special Orders: Lunch: Noon – 1:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

- MSC to approve the November 12, 2013 Minutes of the 93rd Stated Meeting of the Presbytery. [See Appendix B.]

Presbytery of Southwest Florida

Minutes of the 94th Stated Meeting

Saturday, February 8, 2014

- 1 • MSC to approve the November 12, 2013 Executive Session Minutes at the 93rd Stated
2 Meeting of the Presbytery. [See Appendix C.]
3

4 **Stated Clerk's Report (Partial)**

5 The Clerk opened the report with prayer.
6

7 **Standing Committees: Bills and Overtures**

8 Two overtures have been received. They are:

- 9 1. Overture on Child Sexual Abuse. [See Appendix D.]
10 2. Overture on Changing BCO 15-1 and 15-5 (a) and (b). [See Appendix E.]
11

12 In accordance with the Presbytery Standing Rules 4-2-A, the Moderator appointed RE Jean Ow-
13 ens (Chairman), TE Ken Aldrich and TE Dustyn Eudaly to serve on the Bills and Overtures
14 Standing Committee. They shall report back to the Presbytery later in this meeting.
15

16 **Standing Committees: Judicial Business**

17 The Clerk reported that there are two cases before the Standing Judicial Commission of the Gen-
18 eral Assembly. A Panel of the SJC has heard both cases. The Panel has judged that the Presby-
19 tery erred in both cases. The full Standing Judicial Commission will vote the proposed Panel De-
20 cision at their March 2014 meeting. The two cases are as follows:

- 21 1. SJC Case 2013-07: Complaint of First North Port Session vs. Presbytery of South-
22 west Florida. [See Appendix F for Proposed Panel Decision.]
23 2. SJC Case 2013-11: Appeal of First North Port Session vs. Presbytery of Southwest
24 Florida. [See Appendix G for Proposed Panel Decision.]
25

26 RE Donald Bennett, a member of the Presbytery Judicial Panel, addressed the Presbytery about
27 options open to the Presbytery regarding both SJC Cases. He also summarized briefly the facts
28 about the SJC Cases. Honorably Retired TE John Kelley and RE Emeritus Ralph Gross were
29 granted privilege to address the Presbytery. Each elder addressed the Presbytery.
30

- 31 • MSC to appoint a Presbytery Commission to act in accordance with the full SJC Decision
32 (which will take place in March), and to lift immediately the suspension imposed by the
33 Presbytery of Southwest Florida on September 14, 2013, on the Session of First Presby-
34 terian Church of North Port, FL. *Adopted.*
35
36 • MSC to request a rehearing of SJC 2013-11 before the full Standing Judicial Commis-
37 sion. *Adopted.*
38

39 TE Drew Bennett closed the partial report with prayer. Lunch was served at 12:07 p.m.
40

41 **Orders of the Day: Lunch (12:00 – 1:00 p.m.)**

42 The Moderator ordered a recess for lunch at noon. Lunch was served until 12:45 p.m. at Grace
43 Presbyterian Church.
44

Presbytery of Southwest Florida

Minutes of the 94th Stated Meeting

Saturday, February 8, 2014

1 Stated Clerk's Report (Continued)

2 At 12:45 p.m. the Moderator called upon RE Heath Glandon to open the afternoon session in
3 prayer.

4
5 The Clerk prayed before continuing with his report.

- 6
7 • MSC to appoint the following members to serve on the Presbytery Commission to act in
8 accordance with the full SJC Decision: TE Brent Bergman (Convener), TE Bob Bru-
9 baker, RE Allen Montgomery and RE Stan McMahan.

10
11 The Clerk continued with the following report:

- 12 • MSC to approve the requests for excused absences from Teaching Elders Steve Sinclair,
13 Rod Culbertson, Dave Harding, Ted Hamm, Ken Matlack, Phil Woods, Wes Holland
14 (early departure), Tom Schneider, Andrew Lamb, John Grady (late arrival), John Keen,
15 Steve Jeantet (late arrival), Steve Light (early departure), Dax Gibson, Frank Taylor, Ivan
16 Lambert (early departure), and for the Sessions of Cornerstone of Lakewood Ranch
17 Church (Bradenton) and Westminster Presbyterian Church (Brandon) (early departure).
18 • The Clerk reported that various correspondences were sent and/or received. He invited
19 Presbyters to view them if they wished to do so at the Clerk's desk.
20 • The Clerk distributed a "PCA General Assembly Participation Survey" to all elders. [See
21 Appendix H.] The survey is designed by the General Assembly's Administrative Com-
22 mittee to discover ways to increase attendance and improve General Assembly.
23 • MSC to elect the following presbyters to be nominated to serve on the GA Permanent
24 Committees and Agencies at the 42nd General Assembly at Houston, TX in June 2104:
25 TE Jonathan Winfree (Reformed University Ministries) and TE Steve Jeantet (Adminis-
26 trative Committee) [See Appendix I.]
27 • MSC to elect the following presbyters to serve on a Committee of Commissioners at the
28 42nd General Assembly at Houston, TX in June 2104: TE Bob Brubaker (Administration),
29 TE John Keen (Christian Education), TE Jonathan Winfree (Covenant Seminary), TE
30 Dustyn Eudaly (Interchurch Relations), TE Drew Bennett (Mission to North America),
31 TE James Nichols (PCA Foundation), RE Allen Montgomery (Mission to the World), RE
32 Don Bennett (Overtures) and TE Steve Casselli (Overtures). [See Appendix J.]
33 • MSC to give the Stated Clerk authority to appoint a Presbyter to serve on an appropriate
34 Committee of Commissioners at the 42nd General Assembly at Houston, TX in June
35 2104, providing the position is uncontested.
36 • The Clerk reminded the Presbytery that Annual Statistical Reports are due by Tuesday,
37 February 11 to the Stated Clerk's Office of the General Assembly and our Presbytery.
38 • All Sessions are requested to send in their 2013 Session Minutes to the Stated Clerk.

39
40 The Clerk closed the report with prayer.

41 Permanent Committee Report: Examining (Partial)

42
43 The Examining Committee Chairman, TE Jonathan Winfree, opened with prayer. He presented
44 the report of the Examining Committee. [See Appendix K.]

Presbytery of Southwest Florida

Minutes of the 94th Stated Meeting

Saturday, February 8, 2014

1
2 He introduced Rev. Jeff Skipper who seeks to transfer into our Presbytery from the Southern
3 Baptist Convention. Rev. Skipper is currently a member in good standing of Church of the Re-
4 deemer of Winter Haven, FL. He has been called to become the Associate Pastor of Church of
5 the Redeemer of Winter Haven, FL. [See Appendix L.] Rev. Skipper was examined in the areas
6 prescribed by BCO 21-4, in Christian experience, call to the ministry, Bible content, theology,
7 church government, sacraments, and church history, including the history of the PCA. Rev.
8 Skipper stated his difference with the Westminster Standards. It is as follows:

9
10 *WSC 60 and WLC 117* (“even from such worldly employments and recreations as are
11 lawful on other days): The Sabbath is to be a delight, not a burden or restriction. I believe
12 this language in the catechism is restrictive. Jesus said, “the Sabbath was made for man,
13 not man for the Sabbath” (Mk. 2:27). The Sabbath is given as a gift from God for rest, re-
14 flection, and renewal. Many Christians find this joy and rest in community with their
15 family and Christian friends. This takes the form of breaking bread with one another and
16 engaging in recreational activities. When the Sabbath becomes a constraint it loses its
17 purpose. The restrictions seem to contradict the very freedom that has been bought for
18 believers in Christ. The Sabbath is a time to rest in the gifts that God has given, to joyful-
19 ly reflect on spiritual truths, to foretaste heaven’s joys being immersed in Christian com-
20 munity, and to enjoy the freedom one has in Christ. It is not the lack or absence of activi-
21 ty that makes the Sabbath fruitful, but finding joy, rest, and renewal in God which comes
22 in various ways. Our true, eternal Sabbath rest is found in Christ and has been sealed in
23 our hearts by the Holy Spirit. The Christian is now free to celebrate the Sabbath, finding
24 rest in the truth of salvation and joyfully being in community with others.

25
26 After his oral examination, he was excused from the assembly.

- 27 • MSC to sustain his exam in Christian Experience and call to the ministry.
- 28 • MSC to accept his seminary transcripts as evidence of his knowledge of Greek and He-
29 brew.
- 30 • MSC to sustain his exam in Bible content.
- 31 • MSC to sustain his exam in theology.
- 32 • MSC to sustain his exam in the Sacraments.
- 33 • MSC to sustain his exam in Church history.
- 34 • MSC to sustain his exam in history of the Presbyterian Church in America.
- 35 • MSC to sustain his exam in principles and rules of the government and discipline of the
36 church.
- 37 • MSC to approve the sermon of Rev. Jeff Skipper.
- 38 • MSC to approve his theological paper.
- 39 • MSC to approve his exegetical paper.
- 40 • MSC to approve Rev. Skipper’s stated difference to our Standards to be more than se-
41 mantic, but “not out of accord with any fundamental of our system of doctrine” (*BCO 21-*
42 *4*).
- 43 • MSC to approve the terms of call of Rev. Jeff Skipper to serve as the Associate Pastor of

Presbytery of Southwest Florida

Minutes of the 94th Stated Meeting

Saturday, February 8, 2014

1 Church of the Redeemer in Winter Haven, FL, and that he be received as a Teaching El-
2 der in the Presbytery of Southwest Florida. [See Appendix M.]

- 3 • MSC to appoint a Commission composed of TE Drew Bennett (Convener), TE Jonathan
4 Winfree, TE Lyle Caswell, TE Tim Rice, RE Stan McMahan, RE Gene Lanehart and RE
5 Terry Henderson to install Rev. Jeff Skipper as the Associate Pastor of Church of the Re-
6 deemer in Winter Haven, FL, setting the quorum at 2 TEs and 2 REs.

7
8 Upon his return to the assembly, TE Jonathan Winfree prayed for Rev. Jeff Skipper. Jeff Skipper
9 then signed the Ministerial Obligation Form.

10
11 TE Winfree introduced Mr. Joel DeVictoria, who comes to our Presbytery as a candidate for li-
12 censure to preach the Gospel within the bounds of the Presbytery of Southwest Florida. [See Ap-
13 pendix N.] He is currently a member in good standing of Berea Presbyterian Church in Winter
14 Haven, FL. He was examined in accord with *BCO 19-2*, in Christian experience, call to preach
15 the Gospel, theology, Bible content, and church government. Mr. DeVictoria provided a written
16 sermon and also preached to a committee of the Presbytery. Mr. DeVictoria has no stated differ-
17 ences with the Westminster Standards.

18
19 After his oral examination, he was then excused from the assembly.

- 20 • MSC to sustain his exam in Christian experience.
21 • MSC to sustain his call to preach the Gospel.
22 • MSC to sustain his exam in his views in theology.
23 • MSC to sustain his exam in Bible content.
24 • MSC to sustain his exam in church government.
25 • MSC to appoint a committee to listen to the sermon of Mr. DeVictoria.

26 27 **Permanent Committee Report: Candidates for Ministry (Partial)**

28 A Candidates for Ministry Committee member, RE Rodney Edwards, opened with prayer. He
29 reported on the work of the Candidates for Ministry Committee. [See Appendix O.]

30
31 He introduced Mr. Chuck Anderson. Mr. Anderson is an intern at Christ Community Presbyteri-
32 an Church in Lakeland, FL. He gave a brief report of his internship.

33
34 RE Edwards also gave a report on Mr. Jeff Krause.

35
36 RE Rodney Edwards closed the report with prayer.

37 38 **Permanent Committee Report: Liaison for Mission to the World**

39 The Liaison for Mission to the World, TE Bob Brubaker, opened with prayer.

40
41 He asked TE Esaie Etienne to give an update of his ministry to Haiti. TE Etienne gave a report of
42 his ministry in Haiti.

43
44 TE Bob Brubaker prayed for TE Etienne and closed the report with prayer.

Presbytery of Southwest Florida

Minutes of the 94th Stated Meeting

Saturday, February 8, 2014

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Permanent Committee Report: Examining (Continued)

TE David McWilliams reported on behalf of the Committee that heard Mr. Joel DeVictoria's sermon.

- MSC to approve the sermon of Mr. Joel DeVictoria.

The Moderator posed the questions of BCO 19-3 to Mr. Joel DeVictoria, to which he answered affirmatively. After prayer for him by the Moderator, the Moderator read the pronouncement of BCO 19-4, and Mr. DeVictoria received a Licensure Certificate from the Stated Clerk.

At Grace Presbyterian Church, the 8th day of February, 2014, the Presbytery of Southwest Florida, having received testimonials commending Mr. Joel DeVictoria, proceeded to submit him to the prescribed examination for licensure, which was met to the approval of the Presbytery. Having satisfactorily answered the questions for licensure, Mr. DeVictoria was licensed by the Presbytery to preach the Gospel with the bounds of this Presbytery.

TE Jonathan Winfree closed the report with prayer.

Permanent Committee Report: Candidates for Ministry (Continued)

TE Steve Casselli requested that a report be heard from Mr. Willy Ardon.

He introduced Mr. Willy Ardon. Mr. Ardon is an intern at Redeemer Presbyterian Church in Riverview, FL. He gave a brief report of his internship.

RE Rodney Edwards closed the report with prayer.

Permanent Committee Report: Reformed University Ministries

The Reformed University Ministries Chairman, TE Steve Casselli, opened the report with prayer. He reported that TE Jeff Lee was planning to attend the Presbytery meeting but was ill. TE Casselli read a brief report from TE Lee on the work at the University of South Florida.

Recommendation: That the Presbytery approve a housing allowance of \$24,720 for TE Jeff Lee for the year 2014. *Adopted.*

TE Steve Casselli closed the report with prayer.

Permanent Committee Report: Shepherding

The Shepherding Committee Chairman, TE Dustyn, opened with prayer. He reported on the work of the Shepherding Committee with regard to churches and Teaching Elders. [See Appendix P.]

The Shepherding Committee requests the Session Minutes for 2013 from all churches.

Presbytery of Southwest Florida

Minutes of the 94th Stated Meeting

Saturday, February 8, 2014

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2 *Recommendation:* That the Presbytery find the response of the Session of Westtown Presbyterian
3 Church (Tampa) to their exception of substance for their 2012 Session Minutes satisfactory.

4 *Adopted.*

5
6 *Recommendation:* That as no response has been received from the Session of Christ Community
7 Presbyterian Church (Lakeland) regarding their exception of substance for the 2012 Session
8 Minutes, the Session is requested to respond to the Shepherding Committee before the next Stat-
9 ed Meeting of the Presbytery. *Adopted.*

10
11 RE Bill Campbell gave an update on the receipt of Call Packages to the Shepherding Committee.

12
13 RE Bill Campbell closed the report with prayer.

14 **Permanent Committee Report: Administration**

15 The Administration Committee Chairman, RE Jean Owens, opened with prayer. He reported on
16 the work of the Administration Committee. [See Appendix Q.]

17
18
19 At the November 2013 Presbytery meeting, the Presbytery approved a change to the order in
20 which the Permanent Committees report, by having the Examining Committee and Candidates
21 for Ministry Committee always report first. Thus, the Standing Rules should be changed to re-
22 flect the wish of the Presbytery.

23
24 Currently, Article 4-3 states (in part):

25
26 The Permanent Committees shall be docketed to report on a rotating basis to each stated
27 meeting of Presbytery.

28
29 *Recommendation:* The proposed change would have Article 4-3 read (in part) as follows:

30
31 The Permanent Committees shall be docketed to report to each stated meeting of Presby-
32 tery as follows. The Examination Committee and Candidates for Ministry Committee
33 shall always be docketed before the other Permanent Committees, which shall report on a
34 rotating basis. *Adopted.*

35
36 The Presbytery Committee Roster for 2014 was presented to the Presbytery. [See Appendix R.]
37 A number of openings exist on some committees.

38
39 *Recommendation:* The following Presbyters were nominated to serve on the Presbytery Commit-
40 tees:

- 41 • Shepherding Committee: TE Brook Larrison (2016), TE Dwight Dolby (2015).
- 42 • Candidates for Ministry Committee: TE Brian March (2014), TE James Nichols (2016).
- 43 • Mission to North America Committee: TE Wes Holland (2016), RE David Crabtree
44 (2016), TE Tim Rice (2016). *Adopted.*

Presbytery of Southwest Florida

Minutes of the 94th Stated Meeting

Saturday, February 8, 2014

1
2 The Presbytery Income as of December 31, 2013 was \$41,062; the Expenses were \$35,822, for a
3 Net Loss of \$5,240. The Cash reserve as of December 31, 2013 was \$16,283. [See Appendix S.]
4

5 TE Jean Owens closed the report with prayer.
6

7 **Permanent Committee Report: Mission to North America**

8 The Mission to North America Committee Chairman, TE Drew Bennett, opened with prayer. He
9 reported on the work of the Mission to North America Committee. [See Appendix T.]
10

11 *Recommendation:* That the Presbytery approve the Terms of Call for TE Geoff Henderson to
12 serve as the Church Planter of Harbor Community Mission in Bradenton, FL. [See Appendix U.]
13 *Adopted.*
14

15 *Recommendation:* That the Presbytery approve a housing allowance of \$28,800 for TE Geoff
16 Henderson for the year 2014. [See Appendix V.] *Adopted.*
17

18 TE Drew Bennett closed the report with prayer.
19

20 **Permanent Committee Report: Liaison for Christian Education**

21 The Liaison for Christian Education, TE Danny Dalton, opened his report with prayer. He added
22 a few comments to his written report. [See Appendix W.]
23

24 He introduced Dave Enslow, who talked about the upcoming *Iron Sharpens Iron* Conferences in
25 Sarasota, FL and Lakeland, FL.
26

27 TE Danny Dalton closed the report with prayer.
28

29 **Unfinished Business and General Orders**

30 The Bills and Overtures Chairman, RE Jean Owens, opened the report with prayer. He reported
31 back to the Presbytery regarding the two Overtures that had been received for consideration by
32 the Presbytery.
33

34 The first Overture on Child Sexual Abuse was presented to the Presbytery. [See Appendix D.]
35 The Presbytery took the following action regarding the Overture on Child Sexual Abuse:
36

37 WHEREAS Georgia Foothills Presbytery has sent an overture to the 42nd General As-
38 sembly calling on the General Assembly to speak to the issue of child sexual abuse; and
39

40 WHEREAS Southwest Florida Presbytery believes that child sexual abuse is an issue to
41 which the General Assembly should speak; and
42

43 WHEREAS Southwest Florida Presbytery endorses the substance of the overture from
44 Georgia Foothills Presbytery on child sexual abuse; THEREFORE, be it

Presbytery of Southwest Florida

Minutes of the 94th Stated Meeting

Saturday, February 8, 2014

1
2 RESOLVED that Southwest Florida Presbytery urges the 42nd General Assembly to an-
3 swer in the affirmative the overture from Georgia Foothills Presbytery on child sexual
4 abuse. *Adopted (17-16-0).*

5
6 TE Dustyn Eudaly introduced the Overture on Changing BCO 15-1 and 15-5 (a) and (b). [See
7 Appendix E.] The Presbytery took the following action regarding the Overture on Changing
8 BCO 15-1 and 15-5 (a) and (b):

9
10 Whereas, the Book of Church Order (BCO) recognizes a distinction between commis-
11 sions (BCO 15-1), which “conclude the business assigned to it” and judicial commissions
12 (BCO 15-3), which must submit its decision, without debate, for approval or disapproval
13 of presbytery; and

14
15 Whereas, the BCO establishes the principle that judicial commissions act on behalf of a
16 presbytery, but do not have their decisions finalized until the entire court hears and ap-
17 proves the judgment rendered (BCO 15-3); and

18
19 Whereas, the Standing Judicial Commission of the General Assembly (SJC) has been es-
20 tablished (BCO 15-4) and Rules of Assembly Operations (RAO 17) in a way that isolates
21 its decisions from review of the General Assembly, making its judgments final, without
22 approval of the General Assembly as a whole (BCO 15-5a and b); and

23
24 Whereas this represents a contradiction in the way the various courts of the church oper-
25 ate—with presbyteries and their judicial commissions operating in one fashion and the
26 General Assembly and the SJC operating in another; and

27
28 Whereas, this contradiction may violate the essential principle of BCO 11-3 that “all
29 Church courts are one in nature;” and

30
31 Whereas, insulation of SJC Decisions from the oversight of the entire General Assembly
32 may violate the principle of the General Assembly having the power to “bear testimony
33 against error in doctrine” (BCO 14-6a); and

34
35 Whereas, the means for ensuring that the SJC remain the General Assembly’s judicial
36 commission is already present in the model found in presbytery judicial commissions in
37 BCO 15-3; and

38
39 Whereas, the General Assembly may wish to decide a judicial case, notwithstanding the
40 limiting vows taken by SJC members (RAO 17-1), just as a presbytery does; and

41
42 Whereas, the General Assembly may wish to decide a judicial case by not ordinarily de-
43 ferring to the factual findings of the presbytery or its discretion and judgment (BCO 39-
44 3.2); and

Presbytery of Southwest Florida

Minutes of the 94th Stated Meeting

Saturday, February 8, 2014

1
2 Whereas, there is recognition of the need for informed, careful deliberation on the part of
3 commissioners in order to ensure fair outcomes in judicial proceedings (cf. SJC Manual
4 10.8.a-b; 17.8.b)

5
6 *Therefore, be it resolved, that BCO 15-1 and 15-5(a) and (b) be amended as follows (ad-*
7 *ditions in underline):*

8
9 15-1. A commission differs from an ordinary committee in that while a committee is ap-
10 pointed to examine, consider and report, a commission is authorized to deliberate upon
11 and conclude the business referred to it, except in the case of judicial commissions of a
12 Presbytery appointed under BCO 15-3 and the case of the Standing Judicial Commission
13 of the General Assembly appointed under BCO 15-4. A commission shall keep a full rec-
14 ord of its proceedings, which shall be submitted to the court appointing it. Upon such
15 submission this record shall be entered on the minutes of the court appointing, except in
16 the case of a presbytery commission serving as a session or a judicial commission as set
17 forth in BCO 15-3 and the case of the Standing Judicial Commission of the General As-
18 sembly appointed under BCO 15-4. When a commission is appointed to serve as an inter-
19 im Session, its actions are the actions of a Session, not a Presbytery. Every commission
20 of a Presbytery or Session must submit complete minutes and a report of its activities at
21 least once annually to the court which commissioned it.

22
23 **15-5. a.** In the cases committed to it, the Standing Judicial Commission shall have the ju-
24 dicial powers and be governed by the judicial procedures of the General Assembly. The
25 decision of the Standing Judicial Commission shall be the final decision of the General
26 Assembly except as set forth below, to which there may be no complaint or appeal.
27 Members of the Standing Judicial Commission may file concurring or dissenting opin-
28 ions, or a minority report as set forth in (c) below. The General Assembly may direct the
29 Standing Judicial Commission to retry a case if upon the review of its minutes exceptions
30 are taken with respect to that case.

31
32 b. In each case the Standing Judicial Commission shall issue a summary of the facts, a
33 statement of the issues, its judgment and its reasoning, together with any concurring or
34 dissenting opinions. all of which shall be entered on the minutes of the General Assembly
35 and shall be reported by the Stated Clerk to the next General Assembly. The judgment
36 shall be effective from the time of its announcement to the parties. The General Assem-
37 bly without debate shall approve or disapprove of the judgment, or may refer, (a debata-
38 ble motion), any strictly constitutional issue(s) to the Committee on Constitutional Busi-
39 ness. In the case of referral, the Standing Judicial Commission shall either dismiss some
40 or all of the specific charges raised in the case or decide the case only after the report of
41 the Committee on Constitutional Business has been heard and discussed. If the General
42 Assembly approves, the judgment of the Standing Judicial Commission shall be final and
43 shall be entered on the minutes of the General Assembly as the action. If the General As-
44 sembly disapproves, it may assume original jurisdiction at the point of the original com-

Presbytery of Southwest Florida

Minutes of the 94th Stated Meeting

Saturday, February 8, 2014

1 plaint or indictment, and/or assign the case back to the Standing Judicial Commission,
2 with or without the assumption of original jurisdiction, and/or appoint, through the mod-
3 erator, a special commission to hear the case again, with or without the assumption of
4 original jurisdiction. In all cases, the level of informedness required on the part of com-
5 missioners participating in said judicial deliberations shall be equal to that required of the
6 full Commission of the SJC when reviewing a proposed and recommended decision made
7 by an SJC panel as stated in SJC Manual 17.8.b. That is, the Moderator will poll each
8 commissioner of the General Assembly present as to whether or not they have read the
9 following: 1) The SJC's proposed decision; 2) All briefs timely filed by the parties; 3)
10 Those portions of the Record of the Case such commissioner feels is necessary to under-
11 stand the issues of the case. Any commissioner who is not able to certify affirmatively to
12 these inquiries shall not be eligible to participate in discussion or vote in the case at hand.
13

14 If approved, these three sections would read as follows:
15

16 15-1. A commission differs from an ordinary committee in that while a committee is ap-
17 pointed to examine, consider and report, a commission is authorized to deliberate upon
18 and conclude the business referred to it, except in the case of judicial commissions of a
19 Presbytery appointed under BCO 15-3 and the case of the Standing Judicial Commission
20 of the General Assembly appointed under BCO 15-4. A commission shall keep a full rec-
21 ord of its proceedings, which shall be submitted to the court appointing it. Upon such
22 submission this record shall be entered on the minutes of the court appointing, except in
23 the case of a presbytery commission serving as a session or a judicial commission as set
24 forth in BCO 15-3 and in the case of the Standing Judicial Commission of the General
25 Assembly appointed under BCO 15-4. When a commission is appointed to serve as an in-
26 terim Session, its actions are the actions of a Session, not a Presbytery. Every commis-
27 sion of a Presbytery or Session must submit complete minutes and a report of its activi-
28 ties at least once annually to the court which commissioned it.
29

30 **15-5. a.** In the cases committed to it, the Standing Judicial Commission shall have the ju-
31 dicial powers and be governed by the judicial procedures of the General Assembly.
32 Members of the Standing Judicial Commission may file concurring or dissenting opin-
33 ions, or a minority report as set forth in (c) below. The General Assembly may direct the
34 Standing Judicial Commission to retry a case if upon the review of its minutes exceptions
35 are taken with respect to that case.
36

37 b. In each case the Standing Judicial Commission shall issue a summary of the facts, a
38 statement of the issues, its judgment and its reasoning, together with any concurring or
39 dissenting opinions. The General Assembly without debate shall approve or disapprove
40 of the judgment, or may refer, (a debatable motion), any strictly constitutional issue(s) to
41 the Committee on Constitutional Business. In the case of referral, the Standing Judicial
42 Commission shall either dismiss some or all of the specific charges raised in the case or
43 decide the case only after the report of the Committee on Constitutional Business has
44 been heard and discussed. If the Assembly approves, the judgment of the Commission

Presbytery of Southwest Florida

Minutes of the 94th Stated Meeting

Saturday, February 8, 2014

1 shall be final and shall be entered on the minutes of the Assembly as the action. If the
2 General Assembly disapproves, it may assume original jurisdiction at the point of the
3 original complaint or indictment, and/or assign the case back to the Standing Judicial
4 Commission, with or without the assumption of original jurisdiction, and/or appoint,
5 through the moderator, a special commission to hear the case again, with or without the
6 assumption of original jurisdiction. *Adopted (21-4-4).*
7

8 RE Jean Owens closed the report with prayer.
9

10 New Business

11 There was no new business.
12

13 Announcements

14 TE Steve Casselli announced an opportunity for the Presbytery to hear Dr. Nelson Kloosterman
15 speak on Friday morning, April 4, 2014 at Holy Trinity Presbyterian Church.
16

17 TE Brent Bergman made an announcement regarding Twin Lakes Conference, which will be
18 held on April 22 – 24, 2014 in Mississippi. All interested in attending the conference should con-
19 tact TE Bergman for further information.
20

21 Next Meeting

22 The 95th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Southwest Florida will take place on Tuesday, May
23 13, 2014 at Holy Trinity Presbyterian Church in Tampa, FL at 8:30 a.m.
24

25 Adjournment

- 26 • MSC to adjourn the 94th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Southwest Florida.
27

28 Closing Prayer

29 TE David McWilliams closed the Presbytery meeting with prayer at 4:49 p.m.
30

31 Respectfully submitted,
32



33
34 TE Freddy Fritz
35 Stated Clerk, Presbytery of Southwest Florida