

Presbytery of Southwest Florida

Minutes of the 98th Stated Meeting

Saturday, February 14, 2015

1 The Presbytery of Southwest Florida held its 98th Stated Meeting on Saturday, February 14, 2015
2 at Seminole Presbyterian Church of Tampa, FL (5107 N. Central Avenue, Tampa, FL 33603).

3 4 **Call to Order**

5 The retiring Moderator, TE Dwight Dolby, called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m.

6 7 **Constituting Prayer**

8 TE Dwight Dolby read from Psalm 105:1-4 and offered the constituting prayer.

9 10 **Introduction of New Moderator**

11 TE Dwight Dolby introduced the new Moderator, RE David Crabtree (Westminster Presbyterian
12 Church in Brandon, FL). RE David Crabtree gave words of instruction regarding the Worship
13 Service.

14 15 **Morning Worship Service with Lord's Supper – Seminole Presbyterian Church**

16 Seminole Presbyterian Church led the morning Worship Service. TE Dwight Dolby, retiring
17 Moderator and pastor of Auburn Road Presbyterian Church, preached a sermon from Luke 3:1-
18 22 titled, "The Baptism of our Lord." This was followed by the Lord's Supper, which was served
19 by TE Danny Dalton.

20 21 **Memorials Read with Lord's Supper**

22 There were no memorials.

23 24 **Season of Prayer**

25 REE Ken Pothoven led the Presbytery in a Season of Prayer. Presbyters shared praises and peti-
26 tions from the following churches, after which prayer was offered for them:

- 27 • Tampa Bay PCA (Tampa): TE Freddy Fritz shared the following praises: God's contin-
28 ued mercy to the congregation; unity among the members of the congregation; ongoing
29 efforts to reach unbelievers; and continued growth in the knowledge and grace of our
30 Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. He requested prayer for: small construction project to be
31 completed by Easter; outreach training; Christianity Explored; Missions Conference;
32 growing in glorifying God and enjoying him forever. TE Bob Brubaker prayed for Tampa
33 Bay Presbyterian Church.
- 34 • Trinity PCA (Lakeland): TE Tim Rice shared the following praises: continuation of con-
35 versions; coaching church planters; and shortly to ordain and install 22 church officers.
36 He requested prayer for: people who attend worship regularly to come to faith; church
37 plant in north Lakeland; and, personally, for his daughter in her walk with the Lord. REE
38 Ken Pothoven prayed for Trinity Presbyterian Church.
- 39 • Westtown PCA (Westchase): TE Justin Woodall shared the following praises: construc-
40 tion for the new preschool (that will open this fall) has started. He requested prayer for:
41 for TE Dave Saville's eight-year old son, Jack, who is in the hospital for a possible heart
42 transplant. TE Ken Aldrich prayed for Westtown Presbyterian Church and also for the
43 Saville family.

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1 At the conclusion of the Season of Prayer at 9:58 a.m., a short recess was taken.

3 Welcome of Commissioners

4 The Moderator called the meeting to order at 10:12 a.m. and opened in prayer.

6 TE Danny Dalton (Seminole Presbyterian Church) welcomed the commissioners to the church facility and provided directions for comfort of the commissioners and others in attendance.

9 Roll Call - Attendees

10 The following Teaching Elders were in attendance:

TEACHING ELDER ATTENDANCE

	TEACHING ELDER	CHURCH, MINISTRY, OR STATUS	May 13	Sep 13	Nov 13	Feb 14	May 14	Sep 14	Nov 14	Feb 15
1	Aldrich, Kenneth	Covenant Life PCA	P	P	P	P	P	P/E	E	P
2	Arnold, Darrell	Without Call	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
3	Bennett, Drew	Church of the Redeemer PCA	P	E	P	P	P	P/E	P	P
4	Bergman, Brent	Grace Community PCA	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	P
5	Brevick, Arnold	First PCA	P	P	P	P	P	E	E	P
6	Brooks, Sammie	Grace (Lake Suzy) PCA	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	E
7	Brubaker, Robert	Christ Community (Clear.) PCA	P	P	P	P	E/P	P	P	P
8	Burrige, Robert	Out of Bounds (Director, GIRS)	P	P	E	P	P	P	E	E
9	Byrne, Robert	Cornerstone PCA	E	E	E	P	P	P	E	P
10	Casselli, Stephen	Holy Trinity PCA	E	P	P	P	P	P	P	E
11	Caswell, Lyle	Christ Community (Lake.) PCA	P	P	P	A	P	P	A	A
12	Clark, John	Honorably Retired	HR	HR	HR	HR	HR	HR	HR	HR
13	Culbertson, Rodney	Out of Bounds (with RTS)	A	E	E	E	E	E	E	E
14	Dalton, Daniel	Seminole PCA	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
15	Davis, Daryl	Stated Supply (2011)	P	P	A	P	A	A	A	A
16	Dolby, Dwight	Auburn Road PCA	E	E	P	P	P	P	P	P
17	Etienne, Esaie	Evangelist / MTW	A	P	A	P	P	A	E	A
18	Eudaly, Dustyn	Out of Bounds	P	P	E	P	P	E	E	E
19	Fritz, Freddy	Tampa Bay PCA	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
20	Gibson, Dax	Christ Community (Lake.) PCA	E	P	E	E	P	P	P	P
21	Grady, John	Faith (Sarasota) PCA	P	P	P	P	A	E	P	P
22	Graham, John	Honorably Retired	HR	HR	HR	HR	HR	HR	HR	HR
23	Hamm, Ted	Out of Bounds	P	E	E	E	E	A	A	A
24	Hansen, Steven	Redeemer (Riverview) PCA	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
25	Harding, David	St. Petersburg PCA	P	E	E	E	P	E	P	E
26	Hart, Zane	Covenant Life PCA	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	E
27	Henderson, Geoffrey	Harbor Mission (Bradenton)	E	P	P	A	P	P	P	P
28	Holland, Wesley	Westminster PCA	P/E	P	E	P/E	E/P	P	P	E
29	Jeanette, Steven	Covenant Life PCA	E	P	P	P	P	P/E	P	E/P
30	Johnston, Quentin	Out of Bounds	E	E	A	A	E	A	A	A
31	Keen, John	Seminole PCA	P	P	P	E	P	P	P	E
32	Kemp, Jeremy	Christ Community (Lake.) PCA	*	*	*	*	*	*	E	P
33	Kloth, Cory	Cypress Ridge PCA	P/E	E	P	P	E	P	A	P
34	LaPointe, Peter	Christ the King PCA	P	P	E	P	P	P	E	E

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35	Lamb, Andrew	Out of Bounds (with Third Mill)	E	P	E	E	P	E	E	A
36	Lambert, Ivan	Without Call	P	P	A	P	P	P	P	P
37	Larrison, Brook	Faith (Wauchula) PCA	P	P	E	P	P	P	P	P
38	Larson, John	Holy Trinity (Tampa) PCA	*	*	*	*	*	*	P	P
39	Lee, Jeff	RUF at USF	P	P	P	A	P	P	P	P
40	Light, Steven	Sojourner Mission (Tampa)	P	P	P	P/E	P	P	P	P
41	Luchenbill, Thomas	Cypress Ridge PCA	*	P	P	P	E	P	P	P
42	Martin, David	Redeemer (Lakeland) PCA	P	P	E	P	P	P	P	P
43	Matlack, Kenneth	MTW	A	E	E	E	E	E	E	E
44	Mawhinney, Scott	Covenant Life PCA	P	P	P	P	P	A	P	E
45	McDonald, Jeff	Covenant (Lakeland) PCA	E	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
46	McMahan, Stan	Trinity PCA	*	*	*	*	*	P	P	E
47	McWilliams, David	Covenant (Lakeland) PCA	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
48	Nichols, James	Tampa Bay PCA	*	P	E	A	P	P	P	P
49	Rice, Tim	Trinity PCA	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	P
50	Roldan, William	Honorably Retired	A	P	HR	P	HR	HR	P	P
51	Sandhoff, Thomas	Honorably Retired	P	HR	HR	HR	HR	HR	P	HR
52	Saville, David	Westtown PCA	*	A	P	P	P	E	E	E
53	Schneider, Thomas	Covenant (Sebring) PCA	P	P	P	E	P	A	P	P
54	Sidebotham, Thomas	Honorably Retired	HR	HR	P	P	HR	P	HR	HR
55	Sinclair, Steven	Christ the King PCA	P/E	P	E	E	E	P	E	E
56	Skipper, Jeff	Church of the Redeemer PCA	*	*	*	*	P	P	E	P
57	Swartz, Craig	Redeemer (Riverview) PCA	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
58	Taylor, Frank	Westtown PCA	P	A	P	E	P	P	A	A
59	Turner, Benjamin	Trinity PCA	*	*	P	P	P	P	P	E
60	Winfree, Jonathan	Church the Redeemer PCA	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
61	Woodall, Justin	Westtown PCA	*	*	*	*	*	P	P	P
62	Woods, Philip	Cornerstone of L. Ranch PCA	*	*	P	E	P	P	A	P

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 13	Sep 13	Nov 13	Feb 14	May 14	Sep 14	Nov 14	Feb 15
1	Auburn Road / Venice	P	P	P	P	P	E	P	P
2	Berea / Winter Haven	A	P	A	P	P	P	A	P
3	Christ Community / Clearwater	P	P	P	P	A	A	P	P
4	Christ Community / Lakeland	A	A	A	A	A	P	A	A
5	Christ the King / Seminole	P	P	A	P	P	P	E	P
6	Church of the Redeemer / Winter Haven	P	P	P	P	A	A	P	P
7	Cornerstone of Lakewood Ranch / Bradenton	P	P	P	E	P	P	P	P
8	Cornerstone / Lutz	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	P
9	Covenant / Lakeland	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	A
10	Covenant / Sebring	P	A	P	A	P	A	A	P
11	Covenant Life / Sarasota	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
12	Cypress Ridge / Winter Haven	A	P	A	A	A	A	A	A
13	Faith / Sarasota	A	A	A	A	A	P	P	P
14	Faith / Wauchula	A	P	A	P	P	A	E	P

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15	First / North Port	A	A	A	A	A	E	E	P
16	Grace / Lake Suzy	P	A	P	P	P	P	P	E
17	Grace Community / Palm Harbor	P	A	P	A	P	A	A	P
18	Harbor Community Mission / Bradenton	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
19	Holy Trinity / Tampa	P	A	P	P	P	A	P	P
20	Redeemer / Riverview	P	P	A	A	P	P	P	A
21	Redeemer / Lakeland	P	P	A	A	P	P	P	P
22	Seminole / Tampa	E	P	A	P	E	P	P	P
23	Sojourner Mission / Tampa	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
24	St. Petersburg / St. Petersburg	A	A	A	A	P	A	A	A
25	Strong Tower Mission /Lakeland	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
26	Tampa Bay / Tampa	A	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
27	Trinity / Lakeland	P	P	P	P	P	A	A	A
28	Westminster / Brandon	P	P	E	P	E	P	E	P
29	Westtown / Tampa	A	A	A	A	P	A	A	A

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

The following Ruling Elders were in attendance: Richard Gerdon (Auburn Road), Joel DeVictoria (Berea), Heath Glandon (Christ Community - Clearwater), REE Henry Vierling (Christ the King), Barth Smith (Christ the King), Barry Bennett (Church of the Redeemer), Gene Lanehart (Church of the Redeemer), Dave Dickmann (Cornerstone of Lakewood Ranch), Bill Hogan (Cornerstone of Lakewood Ranch), Bill Martin (Cornerstone of Lakewood Ranch), Chris Volf (Cornerstone – Lutz), Mark Breed (Covenant – Sebring), Gordon Shaw (Covenant Life), Randy Coryell (Faith – Sarasota), Brad Mason (Faith – Sarasota), Al Roach (Faith – Sarasota), Ed Tribe (Faith – Sarasota), Robert Jones (Faith – Wauchula), Ralph Gross (First), David Hildebrand (Grace Community), Don Bennett (Holy Trinity), Dan Medina (Redeemer – Lakeland), Randy Johnson (Seminole), Steve Pothoven (Seminole), Gregg Quick (Seminole), Brian Waugh (Seminole), Ken Pothoven (Tampa Bay), and David Crabtree (Westminster).

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

CANDIDATES, LICENTIATES, AND INTERNS ATTENDANCE

	CANDIDATES, LICENTIATES, AND INTERNS	May 13	Sep 13	Nov 13	Feb 14	May 14	Sep 14	Nov 14	Feb 15
1	Ardon, Willy (CAND/INTERN)			P	P	P			P
2	Bennett, Rick (CAND/INTERN/LIC)								
3	Chappell, Justin (CAND/INTERN)							P	P
4	Cleveland, Christopher (CAND/LIC)		P	P	P				
5	DeVictoria, Joel (CAND/LIC)		P		P	P	P		P
6	Elswick, Antony (CAND)		P	P					
7	Gawrych, Garry (CAND)		P	P		P	P		
8	Glandon, Heath (CAND/INTERN)	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
9	Knecht, Jason (CAND)								
10	Malloy, Gabriel (CAND)								
11	Price, Blake (CAND)		P						
12	Pruitt, Chris (CAND)		P		P				
13	Ragsdale, Joe (CAND)				P	P		P	P

P = Present; * = Status Changed

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Introduction of Visitors

The following visitors were introduced or signed in as attending: Stephen Estock (Coordinator for CDM), Dave Enslow (Next Steps for Men), Christopher Knaebel (Susquehanna Valley Presbytery), and Nick Cirino (Holy Trinity).

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 – 12:45 p.m. In addition, he also set Special Orders for two sermons that need to be heard: 12:45 – 1:30 p.m. He also divided the Presbytery into two groups to hear the two sermons in the designated rooms.

Approval of Minutes

- MSC to approve the November 11, 2014 Minutes of the 97th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery. [See Appendix B.]

Stated Clerk’s Report

The Clerk opened the report with prayer.

The Clerk’s report included the following:

- Bills and Overtures: One overture has been received. It is:
 1. Overture to Restructure Boundary of Presbytery of Southwest Florida. [See Appendix C.] In accordance with the Presbytery Standing Rules (Article 4-2.A), the Moderator appointed the following three members to serve on the Bills and Overtures Committee: TE Dwight Dolby (Chairman), TE Steve Jeantet and TE Drew Bennett. They shall report back to the Presbytery later this meeting.
- Judicial Business: There is no judicial business.
- MSC to approve the requests for excused absences from Teaching Elders Sammie Brooks, Bob Burrige, Steve Casselli, Lyle Caswell, Rod Culbertson, Dustyn Eudaly, David Harding, Wes Holland, Steve Jeantet (late arrival), John Keen, Pete LaPointe, Ken Matlack, Scott Mawhinney, Stan McMahan, Tom Sandhoff, Dave Saville, Steve Sinclair, and for the Session of Grace Presbyterian Church (Lake Suzy).
- There are no commission reports.
- The Clerk reported that various correspondences were sent and/or received. He invited Presbyters to view them if they wished to do so at the Clerk’s desk.
- The following presbyters were nominated at the November 2014 Presbytery meeting to serve on the GA Permanent Committees and Agencies at the 43rd General Assembly at Chattanooga, TN in June 2015: RE Robert Curtis (Covenant College), TE Danny Dalton (Mission to the World), TE Jonathan Winfree (Reformed University Ministries) and TE Steve Jeantet (Administrative Committee).

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- 1 • TE Freddy Fritz (Class of 2015) serves on the General Assembly Review of Presbytery
2 Records Committee.
- 3 • TE Steve Jeantet (Class of 2015) serves on the General Assembly Nominating Commit-
4 tee.
- 5 • The Clerk reported that the following churches sent in their Session's Annual Statistical
6 Report for 2014: Auburn Road (Venice), Berea (Winter Haven), Christ Community
7 (Clearwater), Christ Community (Lakeland), Christ the King (Seminole), Church of the
8 Redeemer (Winter Haven), Cornerstone (Lutz), Covenant (Lakeland), Covenant (Se-
9 bring), Covenant Life (Sarasota), Cypress Ridge (Winter Haven), Faith (Sarasota), First
10 (North Port), Holy Trinity (Tampa), Redeemer (Riverview), Redeemer (Lakeland), Sem-
11 inole (Tampa), St. Petersburg (St. Petersburg), Tampa Bay (Tampa), Trinity (Lakeland),
12 and Westminster (Brandon).
- 13 • The Clerk reported that the following churches did **not** send in their Session's Annual
14 Statistical Report for 2014 to the Presbytery Clerk (date of last submission to General As-
15 sembly noted): Cornerstone of Lakewood Ranch (Bradenton - 2013), Faith (Wauchula -
16 2013), Grace (Lake Suzy - 2007), Grace Community (Palm Harbor - 2013), and
17 Westtown (Tampa - 2010).
- 18 • The 42nd General Assembly this past June found one exception of substance in the
19 Minutes of the Presbytery of Southwest Florida. The Presbytery's response was approved
20 at the November 2014 Presbytery meeting and sent in to the General Assembly.
- 21 • There are no matters from the Presbytery of Southwest Florida that need to be forwarded
22 to the Committee on Constitutional Business.
- 23 • The 42nd General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America sent down to Presby-
24 teries for voting, and for advice and consent four items. These items were voted on at the
25 November 2014 Presbytery meeting and sent in to the General Assembly.
- 26 • MSC to elect the following presbyters to serve on a Committee of Commissioners at the
27 43rd General Assembly at Chattanooga, TN in June 2015: TE Dwight Dolby (Covenant
28 Seminary), RE David Crabtree (Mission to North America), TE Drew Bennett (Covenant
29 College), TE James Nichols (PCA Retirement & Benefits), TE Bob Brubaker (Mission
30 to the World), TE Danny Dalton (Reformed University Ministries), and TE Jonathan Win-
31 free (Overtures). [See Appendix D.]
- 32 • MSC to give the Stated Clerk authority to appoint a Presbyter to serve on an appropriate
33 Committee of Commissioners at the 43rd General Assembly at Chattanooga, TN in June
34 2015, providing the position is uncontested.
- 35 • All Sessions are requested to send in their 2014 Session Minutes to the Stated Clerk.
- 36 • The final deadline for Overtures to be included in the General Assembly handbook is
37 April 10, 2015.

38
39 The Clerk closed the report with prayer.

40 41 **Permanent Committee Report: Candidates for Ministry**

42 The Chairman of the Candidates for Ministry Committee, TE Steve Light, opened with prayer.

43 He reported on the work of the Candidates for Ministry Committee. [See Appendix E.]

44

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1 The Candidates for Ministry Committee is recommending that Mr. Justin Chappell's internship
2 be approved for completion. Mr. Chappell's internship with the Presbytery of Southwest Florida
3 began at the September 2014 Presbytery meeting. The Committee is recommending that Mr.
4 Chappell's internship with the EPC be considered as equivalent experience. A paper titled "Ra-
5 tionale for SWFL Presbytery on the Ordination of Justin Chappell" (which applies to the comple-
6 tion of the internship) was received from the Session of Cornerstone of Lakewood Ranch. [See
7 Appendix F.] It was recommended that *BCO* 19-16 apply in this case.

8
9 *Recommendation:* That the Presbytery, in accordance with *BCO* 19-16, approve the completion
10 of Mr. Justin Chappell's internship. *Adopted (49-3-0).*

11
12 TE Light introduced Mr. Nick Cirino, who comes to be examined as a candidate for Gospel min-
13 istry. Mr. Cirino is a member in good standing of Holy Trinity Presbyterian Church in Tampa,
14 FL, and has been a communicant member for more than the required 6 months (*BCO* 18-2). The
15 Session of Holy Trinity Presbyterian Church recommends Mr. Cirino to become a candidate for
16 Gospel Ministry. In accord with *BCO* 18-3, he gave testimony to his Christian experience and
17 call to the ministry. He was then excused from the assembly.

18
19 *Recommendation:* That the Presbytery approve the examination of Mr. Nick Cirino and bring
20 him under care of the Presbytery. *Adopted.*

21
22 Upon his return to the assembly, the Moderator posed the questions of *BCO* 18-3 to Mr. Cirino,
23 which he answered affirmatively. TE David McWilliams gave a brief charge to Mr. Cirino, and
24 TE McWilliams also prayed for him.

25
26 Mr. Nick Cirino was presented as an applicant for internship in the Presbytery. Mr. Cirino is a
27 member in good standing of Holy Trinity Presbyterian Church in Tampa, FL. In accordance with
28 *BCO* 19-9, he gave the Presbytery a testimony of his inward call to the ministry. His internship
29 program with Holy Trinity Presbyterian Church in Tampa, FL, with TE Steve Casselli as his
30 mentor, was presented to the Presbytery.

31
32 *Recommendation:* To approve the internship program for Mr. Nick Cirino with Holy Trinity
33 Presbyterian Church of Tampa, FL with TE Steve Casselli as his mentor and to receive him as an
34 intern in the Presbytery of Southwest Florida. *Adopted.*

35
36 The Moderator prayed for Mr. Nick Cirino, and then read the charge of *BCO* 19-10 to him.

37
38 Thus, in accordance with *BCO* 19-10 the following record is made of Mr. Cirino's internship:

39
40 At the Seminole Presbyterian Church of Tampa, FL, on the 14th day of February, 2015,
41 the Presbytery of Southwest Florida, having received testimonials commending Mr. Nick
42 Cirino, and having received him as a candidate for ministry, has placed him under intern-
43 ship at his request in order to test his gifts for the holy ministry.
44

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1 *Recommendation:* That the Presbytery remove Mr. Rick Bennett as a Candidate for Gospel Min-
2 istry in accordance with Mr. Bennett's request. *Adopted.*

3
4 *Recommendation:* That the Presbytery remove Mr. Garry Gawrych as a Candidate for Gospel
5 Ministry. *Adopted.*

6
7 *Recommendation:* That the Presbytery disapprove the internship for Mr. Willy Ardon as the one-
8 year time period has expired. *Adopted.*

9
10 *Recommendation:* That the Presbytery approve an extension for one year of Mr. Willy Ardon's
11 internship. *Adopted.*

12
13 *Recommendation:* That the Presbytery disapprove the internship for Mr. Heath Glandon as the
14 one-year time period has expired. *Adopted.*

15
16 Written reports were received from the following Intern Reports: Willy Ardon, Heath Glandon,
17 and Joel DeVictoria.

18
19 Written reports were received from the following Candidates for Gospel Ministry: None.

20
21 TE Steve Light closed the report with prayer.

22 23 **Permanent Committee Report: Examining (Partial Report)**

24 The Examining Committee Chairman, TE Jonathan Winfree, opened with prayer. He presented
25 the report of the Examining Committee. [See Appendix G.]

26
27 TE Winfree introduced TE Christopher Knaebel, who comes to our Presbytery to be examined
28 according to BCO 13-6 for transferring his credentials from Susquehanna Valley Presbytery,
29 where he is a member in good standing. [See Appendix H.] He has been called to serve as Pastor
30 of Faith Presbyterian Church in Sarasota, FL. TE Knaebel was examined in Christian experience,
31 and his views in theology, the Sacraments, and church government. TE Knaebel stated his differ-
32 ences with the Westminster Standards as follows:

33
34 WLC #117 ("**The Sabbath** or Lord's Day is to be sanctified by an holy resting all the
35 day, not only from such works as are at all times sinful, but *even from* such worldly em-
36 ployments and *recreations* as are on other days lawful"): Since "the Sabbath was made
37 for man, not man for the Sabbath" (Mark 2:27), I believe that in addition to "works of ne-
38 cessity," family recreation is permissible on the Lord's Day (provided that the worship of
39 the Lord remains preeminent).

40
41 After his oral examination, TE Knaebel was excused from the assembly.

- 42 • MSC to sustain his exam in Christian Experience and Call to ministry.
- 43 • MSC to sustain his exam in Theology.
- 44 • MSC to sustain his exam in the Sacraments.

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- 1 • MSC to sustain his exam in Church Government.
- 2 • MSC to approve TE Knaebel's stated differences to our Standards to be more than se-
- 3 mantic, but not out of accord with any fundamental of our system of doctrine (*BCO* 21-
- 4 4).
- 5 • MS to approve the specific arrangements (*BCO* 20-1) and the terms of call of TE Chris-
- 6 topher Knaebel to become the Senior Pastor of Faith Presbyterian Church of Sarasota,
- 7 FL. [See Appendix I.]
- 8 ○ MSC to postpone the above motion to later in this Presbytery meeting.
- 9

10 TE Jonathan Winfree closed the report.

11 **Orders of the Day: Lunch (12:00 – 12:45 p.m.)**

12 The Moderator ordered a recess for lunch at 12:00 p.m. Lunch was served until 12:45 p.m. at

13 Seminole Presbyterian Church.

14

15 **Orders of the Day: Sermons (12:45 – 1:30 p.m.)**

16 At 12:45 p.m. the sermons of two candidates, Mr. Nick Cirino and Mr. Justin Chappell, were

17 heard by two groups of presbyters.

18

19 **Permanent Committee Report: Examining (Continued)**

20 The Moderator called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m.

21

22

23 The Examining Committee Chairman, TE Jonathan Winfree, opened with prayer. He presented

24 the conclusion of the report of the Examining Committee. [See Appendix G.]

25

26 TE Winfree introduced TE Brandon Lutz, who comes to our Presbytery to be examined accord-

27 ing to *BCO* 13-6 for transferring his credentials from Palmetto Presbytery, where he is a member

28 in good standing. [See Appendix J.] He has been called to serve as Assistant Pastor of Church of

29 the Redeemer in Winter Haven, FL. TE Lutz was examined in Christian experience, and his

30 views in theology, the Sacraments, and church government. TE Lutz stated his differences with

31 the Westminster Standards as follows:

32

33 WCF 21.8: I take exception to WCF 21.8 regarding the keeping of the Sabbath day and

34 the word 'recreation.' I do not see in the Scriptures that all types of recreation would be

35 prohibited on the Sabbath. Jesus spends time with his disciples on the Sabbath (Matthew

36 14) and Jesus attends a dinner party on the Sabbath (Luke 14). I believe spending time or

37 sharing a meal with family and friends, playing games with my children in our backyard

38 are ways of keeping the Sabbath. However, I do believe the Sabbath should be set apart

39 and kept sacred. Joining a sports league or committing to a recreation that would take

40 away myself or my family from attending public worship and keeping the Sabbath sacred

41 are ways of not keeping the Sabbath.

42

43 After his oral examination, TE Lutz was excused from the assembly.

- 44 • MSC to sustain his exam in Christian Experience and Call to ministry.

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- 1 • MSC to sustain his exam in Theology.
- 2 • MSC to sustain his exam in the Sacraments.
- 3 • MSC to sustain his exam in Church Government.
- 4 • MSC to approve TE Lutz's stated differences to our Standards to be more than semantic,
- 5 but not out of accord with any fundamental of our system of doctrine (*BCO* 21-4).
- 6 • MSC to approve the specific arrangements (*BCO* 20-1) and the terms of call of TE Bran-
- 7 don Lutz to become the Assistant Pastor of Church of the Redeemer of Winter Haven,
- 8 FL. [See Appendix K.]
- 9 • MSC to receive TE Brandon Lutz as a member of the Presbytery of Southwest Florida,
- 10 pending his dismissal from Palmetto Presbytery, and install him as the Assistant Pastor of
- 11 Church of the Redeemer of Winter Haven, FL.
- 12 • MSC to appoint a Commission composed of TE Drew Bennett (Convener), TE Jonathan
- 13 Winfree, TE Steve Jeantet, TE Stan McMahan, RE Josh Snively, RE Barry Bennett and
- 14 RE Gene Lanehart to install TE Brandon Lutz, setting the quorum at 2 TEs and 2 REs.
- 15

16 Upon his return to the assembly, TE Jonathan Winfree prayed for TE Brandon Lutz. TE Lutz
17 then signed the Ministerial Obligation Form.

18
19 TE Winfree introduced Mr. Nick Cirino, who comes to our Presbytery as a candidate for licen-
20 sure to preach the Gospel within the bounds of the Presbytery of Southwest Florida. [See Appen-
21 dix L.] He is a member in good standing of Holy Trinity Presbyterian Church in Tampa, FL,
22 where he serves as Pastoral Intern. Mr. Cirino has become a candidate under care of the Presby-
23 tery of Southwest Florida. He is also beginning his internship at Holy Trinity Presbyterian
24 Church under the mentorship of TE Steve Casselli. He was examined in accord with *BCO* 19-2,
25 in Christian experience, call to preach the Gospel, theology, Bible content, and church govern-
26 ment. Mr. Cirino preached a sermon to the Presbytery. Mr. Cirino stated his differences with the
27 Westminster Standards as follows:

28
29 WCF 1.8 (Hebrew, Greek): Aramaic should be added to this list.

30
31 LC 117 (cf. 21.8, SC 60) (...recreations as are on other days lawful...
32 and making it our delight to spend the whole time... in the public and private exercises of
33 God's worship): I believe that the fourth commandment still binds Christians today and
34 that Sunday is to be set apart as the Lord's day. I believe that this question sets out for us
35 a good and profitable way to sanctify the Sabbath, but I do not believe the Scripture is as
36 stringent in these two areas as the confession is. I think some types of recreation can be
37 appropriate and thus resting can include something that is not immediately private or
38 public worship or works of necessity and mercy.

39
40 WCF 21.5 (Singing psalms): I believe songs other than the psalms are also permissible
41 for public worship.

42

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1 WCF 25.2 (The visible church... is the kingdom of the Lord): The church is the most
2 prominent and clear manifestation of the kingdom on earth, but the kingdom and church
3 are not coterminous.

4
5 29.3 (cf. LC 169) (Appointed his ministers): I see the wisdom of the divisions between
6 RE and TE, but I think making it only lawful for TE to administer the sacraments does
7 damage to the parity of the office. I am yet undecided whether an elder presiding over the
8 Lord's Supper is a matter of commandment or wisdom. Either way, I fully endorse it.
9 Additionally, I believe the elements can be distributed by non-elders according to the dis-
10 cretion of the session.

11
12 WLC 108 (Religious fasting): I am not sure this is a duty required of man.

13
14 LC 109 (Making any representation... of any of the three persons): I have not settled on a
15 view of the appropriateness of images of Christ in children's books, movies, etc. I see it
16 as not wise, but am not sure as of yet if it is sinful.

17
18 LC 156 (All are not permitted to read the Word publically to the congregation): I see
19 wisdom in guarding who reads publically. However, the confession may speak more
20 strongly on this issue than Scripture does. I have not settle my position on this yet.

21
22 LC 158 (The word of God is to be preached only by such as are... duly approved and
23 called to that office): I think it would be appropriate for others than ordained elders to
24 preach on occasion, e.g., a candidate for ministry.

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

- 27 • MSC to sustain his Christian experience.
- 28 • MSC to sustain his call to preach the Gospel.
- 29 • MSC to sustain his views in theology.
- 30 • MSC to sustain his exam in Bible content.
- 31 • MSC to sustain his exam in church government.
- 32 • MSC to approve the sermon of Mr. Cirino.
- 33 • MSC to approve Mr. Cirino's stated differences to our Standards to be more than seman-
34 tic, but not out of accord with any fundamental of our system of doctrine (*BCO* 21-4).

35
36 Upon Mr. Cirino's return to the assembly, the Moderator posed the questions of *BCO* 19-3 to
37 Mr. Nick Cirino, to which he answered affirmatively. After prayer for him by the Moderator, the
38 Moderator read the pronouncement of *BCO* 19-4, and Mr. Nick Cirino received a Licensure Cer-
39 tificate from the Stated Clerk.

40
41 At Seminole Presbyterian Church, the 14th day of February, 2015, the Presbytery of
42 Southwest Florida, having received testimonials commending Mr. Nick Cirino, proceed-
43 ed to submit him to the prescribed examination for licensure, which was met to the ap-
44 proval of the Presbytery. Having satisfactorily answered the questions for licensure, Mr.

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1 Cirino was licensed by the Presbytery to preach the Gospel with the bounds of this Pres-
2 bytery.

3
4 TE Winfree introduced Mr. Justin Chappell, who comes as a candidate for ordination. Mr. Chap-
5 pell is currently a member in good standing of Cornerstone Church of Lakewood Ranch on
6 Bradenton, FL. He has been called to become the Assistant Pastor of Cornerstone Church of
7 Lakewood Ranch, FL. [See Appendix M.] Mr. Chappell was examined in the areas prescribed by
8 BCO 21-4, in Christian experience, call to the ministry, Bible content, theology, church govern-
9 ment, sacraments, and church history, including the history of the PCA. Mr. Chappell stated his
10 difference with the Westminster Standards. It is as follows:

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

27
28 *WCF 21-8* (“and thoughts about their worldly employments and recreations”): I whole-
29 heartedly affirm the Westminster statement regarding the need to “observe an holy rest”
30 on the Sabbath, or the Lord’s Day, as ordained by the Lord (Deuteronomy 5:12-14) and
31 modeled in the creation account (Genesis 2:2-3). The Confession lays out the specific ap-
32 plication and definition of this “holy rest” as “...taken up, the whole time, in the public
33 and private exercises of his worship.” While I affirm the nature of this statement, and the
34 whole body and life submission towards rest, I find the language of the Confession to be
35 limiting in the scope of application and definition. There is a creational rest and refresh-
36 ment that abides in re-creational activities, such as: running, biking, walks in the park,
37 and other life-giving corporate activities. The language of WLC #121 uses language that I
38 prefer, “...a thankful remembrance of the two great benefits of creation and redemption.”
39 Additionally, the unique setting apart of “...one whole day in seven,” (WLC #116) is a
40 principle that communicates to the world the sustaining love and provision of the Father
41 in Heaven. Therefore, I find the repeated use of “worldly employments and recreation”
42 (WCF 21-8, WLC #117, #119, #60) to create an unnecessary division between holy rest
43 and recreation activities (as mentioned above), as long as these recreational activities are
44 a, “thankful remembrance of the two great benefits of creation and redemption.”

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1
2 *WLC* #109 (“the making any representation of God, of all or of any of the three persons,
3 either inwardly in our mind..”): I affirm that there should not be any worship of a person-
4 al depiction or representation of God in corporate and private worship. Any such depic-
5 tion or representation is subject to vain reconstruction by man (Romans 1:23). The lan-
6 guage of “either inwardly in our mind...” seems to create an impossible situation though.
7 There is great power in the intellectual, emotional, and physical response to Christ’s life,
8 death, and resurrection. To avoid reconstructions of these events “in our mind(s)...”
9 seems to suggest an improbable and lacking (intellectually and existentially) scenario for
10 worship. Scripture presents Christ in such a way that we must think of Him as the “image
11 of the invisible God” (Colossians 1:15).

12
13 After his oral examination, he was excused from the assembly.

- 14 • MSC to sustain his exam in Christian Experience and call to the ministry.
- 15 • MSC to accept his seminary transcripts as evidence of his knowledge of Greek and He-
16 brew.
- 17 • MSC to sustain his exam in Bible content.
- 18 • MSC to sustain his exam in theology.
- 19 • MSC to sustain his exam in the Sacraments.
- 20 • MSC to sustain his exam in Church history.
- 21 • MSC to sustain his exam in history of the Presbyterian Church in America.
- 22 • MSC to sustain his exam in principles and rules of the government and discipline of the
23 church.
- 24 • MSC to approve the sermon of Mr. Chappell.
- 25 • MSC to approve his theological paper.
- 26 • MSC to approve his exegetical paper.
- 27 • MSC to approve Mr. Chappell’s stated difference to our Standards to be more than se-
28 mantic, but “not out of accord with any fundamental of our system of doctrine” (*BCO* 21-
29 4).
- 30 • MSC to approve the terms of call of Mr. Justin Chappell to serve as the Assistant Pastor
31 of Cornerstone of Lakewood Ranch in Bradenton, FL, and that he be received as a Teach-
32 ing Elder in the Presbytery of Southwest Florida. [See Appendix N.]
- 33 • MSC to appoint a Commission composed of TE Geoff Henderson (Convener), TE Phil
34 Woods, TE Ken Aldrich, RE Bill Martin, RE Bill Hogan, and RE Dave Dickmann to or-
35 dain and install Mr. Justin Chappell as Assistant Pastor of Cornerstone Church of Lake-
36 wood Ranch of Bradenton, FL, setting the quorum at 2 TEs and 2 REs.

37
38 Upon his return to the assembly, TE Jonathan Winfree prayed for Mr. Justin Chappell. Mr.
39 Chappell then signed the Ministerial Obligation Form.

40
41 TE Jonathan Winfree closed the report with prayer.

42
43 **Permanent Committee Report: Administration**

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1 The Administration Committee Chairman, TE Dwight Dolby, opened the report with prayer.

2
3 The Presbytery Treasurer, RE Randy Coryell, reported regarding the Presbytery finances as of
4 December 31, 2014. The Presbytery Income as of December 31, 2014 was \$48,047; the Expens-
5 es were \$51,187, for a Loss of \$3,140. The Cash Reserve as of December 31, 2014 was \$9,533.
6 [See Appendix O.]

7
8 TE Dwight Dolby closed the report with prayer.

9 10 **Permanent Committee Report: Mission to North America**

11 The Chairman of the Mission to North America Committee Chairman, TE Drew Bennett, opened
12 with prayer. He reported on the work of the Mission to North America Committee. [See Appen-
13 dix Q.]

14
15 TE Bennett led a discussion regarding the multiplication (division) of the Presbytery. [See Ap-
16 pendix R.]

- 17
18 • MSC to take up from the table the motion (below) from the November 2014 Stated Meet-
19 ing of the Presbytery of Southwest Florida.

20
21 *Recommendation:* That the Presbytery overture the 2015 General Assembly to restructure the
22 boundary of Presbytery of Southwest Florida so that all churches and mission works in the coun-
23 ties of Manatee, Sarasota, that portion of Charlotte North of the Peace River, and Glades join the
24 Florida Suncoast Presbytery effective January 1, 2016.

25
26 Amend the recommendation above by the recommendation below:

27
28 *Recommendation:* That the Presbytery of Southwest Florida overture the 43rd General Assembly
29 to restructure the boundary of the Presbytery of Southwest Florida so that all churches and mis-
30 sion works in the counties of Manatee, Sarasota, that portion of Charlotte north of the Peace Riv-
31 er, DeSoto and Glades join the Suncoast Florida Presbytery, effective July 1, 2015. *Adopted.*

32
33 The Bills & Overtures Committee reported to the Presbytery that the Overture to Restructure
34 Boundary of Presbytery of Southwest Florida was in order. [See Appendix C.]

35
36 *Recommendation:* That the following Overture be sent to the 43rd General Assembly at Chatta-
37 nooga, TN in June 2015:

38
39 **OVERTURE** from Presbytery of Southwest Florida (to MNA)
40 “Restructure Boundary of Presbytery of Southwest Florida”

41
42 **Whereas**, a presbytery confined to a smaller geographic region can lead to more efficient
43 oversight, cooperation, and connection between particular congregations in the presby-
44 tery; and

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1
2 **Whereas**, fostering a sense of connectionalism and cooperation of churches, teaching el-
3 ders, and ruling elders beyond the local congregation is a hallmark of historic Presbyteri-
4 anism; and

5
6 **Whereas**, a presbytery that has greater concentration within a specific geographic region
7 may and should lead to a greater emphasis on church planting within that region; and

8
9 **Whereas**, a presbytery that encompasses a smaller geographic region should permit
10 shorter meetings and shorter driving distances for presbyters to such meetings; and

11
12 **Whereas**, shorter distances should lead to greater participation in presbytery by ruling
13 elders, thus allowing ruling elders to better fulfill their established calling to “govern the
14 church well;” and

15
16 **Whereas**, the Guidelines for Dividing Presbyteries, as adopted by the 26th General As-
17 sembly of the Presbyterian Church in America, attached hereto as Exhibit A (the “Guide-
18 lines”), include “regional cohesiveness,” “member churches hav[ing] a potential for
19 shared ministries,” and “member churches hav[ing] a common commitment to the re-
20 gion;” and

21
22 **Whereas** the Lord has greatly blessed the working of the Presbytery of Southwest Flori-
23 da giving us a total of twenty six churches (plus three mission works) within the bounds
24 of our Presbytery, and

25
26 **Whereas**, the Guidelines encourage Presbyteries with over 30 churches to “consider
27 whether subdivision would lead to more effective ministry”; and

28
29 **Whereas**, the Suncoast Florida Presbytery, having heard of the discussion of the Presby-
30 tery of Southwest Florida to multiply, requested that the churches in the southern portion
31 of the Presbytery of Southwest Florida join them;

32
33 **Now therefore be it resolved**, that Presbytery of Southwest Florida overture the 43rd
34 General Assembly to restructure the boundary of the Presbytery of Southwest Florida so
35 that all churches and mission works in the counties of Manatee, Sarasota, that portion of
36 Charlotte north of the Peace River, DeSoto and Glades join the Suncoast Florida Presby-
37 tery, effective July 1, 2015. *Adopted.*

38
39 TE Drew Bennett closed the report with prayer.

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

41
42 The Liaison for Christian Education, REE Ken Pothoven, opened his report with prayer. He add-
43 ed a few comments to his written report. [See Appendix S.]
44

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1 REE Pothoven introduced Dr. Stephen Estock, Coordinator for Committee on Discipleship Min-
2 istries, who addressed the Presbytery regarding CDM.

3
4 REE Pothoven introduced Mr. Dave Enslow, who talked about the upcoming *Iron Sharpens Iron*
5 Conferences in Sarasota, FL and Lakeland, FL.

6
7 REE Ken Pothoven closed the report with prayer.

8 9 **Permanent Committee Report: Liaison for Mission to the World**

10 No report from Mission to the World.

11 12 **Permanent Committee Report: Reformed University Ministries**

13 TE Jeff Lee, on behalf of Reformed University Ministries, opened the report with prayer.

14
15 TE Jeff Lee reported on the work at the University of South Florida.

16
17 TE Jeff Lee closed the report with prayer.

18 19 **Permanent Committee Report: Shepherding**

20 The Shepherding Committee Chairman, TE Jeff McDonald, opened with prayer. He reported on
21 the work of the Shepherding Committee with regard to churches and Teaching Elders. [See Ap-
22 pendix T.]

23
24 Several churches were required to respond to the Shepherding Committee regarding exceptions
25 of substance to their 2013 Session Minutes.

26
27 *Recommendation:* That the response received from the Session of First Presbyterian Church
28 (North Port) [Session Minutes not in compliance with Session Records Guidelines] be found sat-
29 isfactory. *Adopted.*

30
31 *Recommendation:* That the response received from the Session of Westtown Presbyterian
32 Church (Tampa) [Session Minutes not in compliance with Session Records Guidelines; no record
33 of reception of new members; no record of congregation approving reinstatement of Ruling El-
34 der; no record of congregation meeting minutes] be found satisfactory. *Adopted.*

35
36 *Recommendation:* That the response received from the Session of Christ Community Presbyteri-
37 an Church (Lakeland) [Record shows that congregation and not Session “approved” the budget]
38 be found satisfactory. *Adopted.*

39
40 *Recommendation:* That the response received from the Session of Redeemer Presbyterian
41 Church (Lakeland) [No record of asking or answering of membership vows] be found satisfacto-
42 ry. *Adopted.*

43
44 RE Joel DeVictoria is a Ruling Elder Stated Supply and Intern at Berea Presbyterian Church, and

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1 has expressed his desire to resign as a ruling elder from Berea Presbyterian Church and transfer
2 his internship to another church in our Presbytery by February 23, 2015. [See Appendix U.]

3
4 *Recommendation:* That the Presbytery approve the resignation of RE Joel DeVictoria as RE
5 Stated Supply (BCO 24-7). *Adopted.*

- 6
7 • MSC that the Presbytery approve RE Joel DeVictoria to continue his internship at Cove-
8 nant Presbyterian Church under the mentorship of TE David McWilliams and TE Jeff
9 McDonald.

10
11 Once RE Joel DeVictoria resigns as a Ruling Elder at Berea Presbyterian Church, the church will
12 only have one Ruling Elder (and no Teaching Elder) on the Session. Berea Presbyterian Church
13 will therefore revert to a Mission of the Presbytery.

14
15 *Recommendation:* That the Presbytery, in accordance with BCO 15-1, appoint a commission to
16 serve as a temporary Session of Berea Mission (BCO 5-3.c). *Adopted.*

17
18 *Recommendation:* That the Presbytery appoint the following presbyters to serve on the commis-
19 sion to serve as a temporary Session for Berea Mission: TE Jonathan Winfree (convener), TE
20 Brook Larrison, RE Frank Campano, and RE Gene Lanehart. *Adopted.*

21
22 TE John Grady, Pastor of Faith Presbyterian Church of Sarasota, FL has tendered his resignation
23 to that congregation, effective immediately. The congregation of Faith Presbyterian Church has
24 approved of TE Grady's resignation and requests the dissolution of the pastoral relation. [See
25 Appendix W.]

26
27 *Recommendation:* That the Presbytery dissolve the pastoral relation between TE John Grady and
28 Faith Presbyterian Church, effective immediately. *Adopted.*

29
30 *Recommendation:* That the Presbytery approve the terms of call of TE John Grady to serve as the
31 Associate Pastor of Faith Presbyterian Church in Sarasota, FL, and that he remain as a Teaching
32 Elder in the Presbytery of Southwest Florida. [See Appendix W.] *Adopted.*

- 33
34 • MSC that the Presbytery appoint a Commission composed of TE Sammie Brooks (Con-
35 vener), TE Arnie Brevick, TE Freddy Fritz, RE Randy Coryell, RE Brad Mason, RE Jeff
36 Reed, RE Al Roach, RE Bob Shamsey, and RE Ed Tribe to install TE John Grady as As-
37 sociate Pastor of Faith Presbyterian Church in Sarasota, FL, setting the quorum at 2 TEs
38 and 2 REs.

39
40 TE McDonald then asked the Presbytery to take up the call regarding TE Knaebel.

- 41
42 • MSC to take up from the table the motion regarding the specific arrangements and terms
43 of call of TE Christopher Knaebel.

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1 review.

2

3 TE Jeff McDonald closed the report with prayer.

4

5 **Reports of Special Committees**

6 No special committees.

7

8 **Unfinished Business and General Orders**

9 No unfinished business or general orders.

10

11 **New Business**

12 No new business.

13

14 **Announcements**

15 No announcements.

16

17 **Next Meeting**

18 The 99th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Southwest Florida will take place on Tuesday, May
19 12, 2015 at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Lakeland, FL at 8:30 a.m.

20

21 **Adjournment**

- 22 • MSC to adjourn the 98th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Southwest Florida.

23

24 **Closing Prayer**

25 TE David McWilliams closed the Presbytery meeting with prayer at 4:08 p.m.

26

27 Respectfully submitted,

28



29

30 TE Freddy Fritz

31 Stated Clerk, Presbytery of Southwest Florida

