



Handbook
Flint River Presbytery
132nd Stated Meeting



August 7, 2021

Ordinary Time 2021

Dear Flint River Saints,

Although “ordinary time” is the liturgical season for this time of year, there’s nothing remotely ordinary about our life together, particularly as we continue to emerge from a pandemic. **This packet is designed to assist you in preparing for the 132nd Stated Meeting in-person meeting of Flint River Presbytery**, which is to be held at **Covenant Presbyterian Church, located at 2126 Edgewater Drive, Albany GA 31707 on Saturday, August 7, 2021**. Please dress casually and comfortably for this summer day. Note as well that we will be following the most up-to-date guidelines from the CDC. *Those who are fully vaccinated are welcome to attend unmasked. Those who have not been fully vaccinated are to wear masks.*

This meeting will be full of joyful worship! Tom Granum, a child of this presbytery and a gifted musician who recently co-led the Montreat Worship and Music Conference, will be planning our presbytery worship. We’ll sing together with gusto and give thanks for the 8 ruling elders who have completed the 3-year preparation to become Trained Ruling Elders (TREs). In addition, we are delighted to be commissioning Melissa Coleman, the Director of Campus Ministry, to her work at The Center @ Valdosta State University.

Registration will begin at 9:00 am and an orientation session for new(ish) commissioners is planned for 9:30 am. The location for this training will be provided at registration.

The pages that follow include an agenda along with information and attachments from our committees and task forces. **Please read all the enclosed material carefully prior to coming to the meeting so you can make informed decisions and share resources with your Session and congregation after the meeting.** Please note, in particular, that we will be voting as a presbytery on whether to sell the presbytery building. We will also be asked to endorse Marilyn Tucker-Marek to stand as Moderator/Co-Moderator for the 2022 General Assembly!

Although our online meetings have been completed in 2 hours or less, we anticipate that this meeting may be somewhat longer in length, although it will be as focused and celebratory as ever! **Lunch will be an order of the day at 1 pm, and the cost for a boxed lunch will be \$7.** Be sure to bring cash or a check to pay for lunch on site. **In addition, know that free childcare will be available.** Contact Elizabeth at ecantrell@flintriverpresbytery.org by 5 pm on **Thursday, July 29th** so hospitable arrangements can be made for children.

As you well know, our connection to Jesus Christ and to one another matters more than ever.

Let’s cement our relationships with one another as we seek to serve our Lord Jesus Christ!

In Christ’s Hope and in His Service,

Deb, Becky, Elizabeth, and Toni

Agenda of the Presbytery of Flint River
of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Saturday, August 7, 2021

Covenant Presbyterian Church in Albany, Georgia

How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity! --Psalm 133

Registration with Office Manager, Elizabeth Cantrell 9:00 am

Orientation of Commissioners with Stated Clerk, Becky Willis 9:30 am

Gathering as God's People

Welcome from Host Congregation 10:00 am

Gathering Songs and Prayer

The offering today will go to support the International Mission Partnership of the Guatemala Union of Presbyterian Women

You can give cash, write a check, or go to www.flintriverpresbytery.org to give online, or use the Give Plus+ app. If giving online, please designate that your online gift is for the offering at the August presbytery meeting.

Welcome & Call to Order Patti Kauffmann, FRP Moderator

Approval of the Agenda Fields Varner, AB Moderator

Roll Call and Introductions Deb Wilson, Recording Clerk

Announcements for the Common Good – *please limit announcement to 3 minutes*

Proclaiming Good News

Reflections from our Synod Executive Joyce Lieberman

Reflections from our Executive Presbyter Debra Tregaskis

Information about our Joint Ministries Patti Kauffmann, FRP Moderator

- Advisory Board p. 4
- Stated Clerk Report p. 5
- Committees and Commissions pgs. 5-9

Consideration of the Action Items p. 10-11

Addendum Reports

FRP's Purpose

***Empower**
congregations
in their local
witness

***Encourage**
- and strengthen -
all congregational
leaders

***Equip**
congregations so
that they may
give voice to
God's story of
redemption and
renewal in middle
GA and SW GA

***Engage**
in local, national,
and international
mission, with an
emphasis upon
campus ministry

***Experiment**
often around new
ways of "being
church" in the 21st
century

Sending God's People to Serve

Closing Worship

*Celebrating the graduation of our 2021 Buddy Leach Class of Trained Ruling Elders
from the Gerald L. Voye School for Ruling Elders
and the commissioning of Melissa Coleman
as the Director of Campus Ministry at The Center at Valdosta State University.*

Order of the Day Lunch at 1 pm

Blessing and Adjournment

Patti Kauffman, FRP Moderator

2021 Presbytery Meeting Dates

Saturday, October 16 at 10 am is our next presbytery meeting!

Stay tuned for more details!

Other Upcoming Presbytery-Wide Events

Sunday, September 12 Campus Ministry Sunday

Designated to raise awareness of this pivotal mission and encourage a renewed awareness and generosity.
Bulletin inserts and giving envelopes will be available.

Installation of Connie Happell at Edgewood (Columbus) at 4 pm on this same date.

Sunday, September 26 Flint River Presbytery Sunday

Designated to raise awareness of the countless disciples who give their energy, expertise, passion and insight
to our shared ministry.

Celebratory Litany for our Volunteers will be available.

Contact FRP staff for a list of congregation members who serve in the presbytery.

Sunday, October 3 World Communion Sunday

4 sites within our presbytery will host Rise Against Hunger packing events!

FOR INFORMATION

The ministry items mentioned in the follow pages occur because of the commitment and imagination of faithful people *just like you* from every corner of our presbytery. Please read this attentively and prayerfully and learn about the ways in which we are working together so that our 46 worshipping communities (42 congregations and 4 campus ministries).

Advisory Board (AB) – Fields Varner, moderator

1. Reflected on Matthew 13: 24-30, the Parable of the Wheat and the Weeds, while noting its guiding wisdom during a messy pandemic season and remembering to choose great compassion and love in moments of uncertainty, crisis, or chaos.
2. Approved the minutes of the Flint River Presbytery's 130th and 131st Stated Meetings, held respectively on Saturday, February 6 and Saturday, April 17, 2021. (*Minutes for the February meeting were included in the April presbytery packet and no changes were made upon their approval . **Minutes for our April meeting can be found in Attachments, pages 1-5)**
3. Awarded five Young Adult Ministry (YAM) Internships to the following young adults: Ella Cole Alderman, Jack Cantrell, Ellie Dieth, Ella Hawkins, and Emme Van Doorn. Each student completed a comprehensive application for consideration and their projects were designed to support the congregations of our presbytery within a particular cluster or the presbytery as a whole. Briefly stated, Ella Cole Alderman is planning a presbytery-wide Mother-Daughter retreat for November 12-13 at Northminster (Macon). Jack Cantrell is creating a documentary film around a variety of religious and political issues as a way to foster conversation. Ellie Dieth and Emme Van Doorn are both planning Hunger Projects within the Columbus area and Ella Hawkins will be creating bulletin covers for the seasons of Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany for all our congregations. *As the projects take shape, you'll be hearing more!*
4. Received a detailed update from the "Building As Mission" Task Force, who continues to explore outcomes and research issues around the possible sale of the presbytery building. **Note that this task force was granted approval to move ahead in its work at the April 17th presbytery meeting.**
5. Agreed to proceed with plans to meeting in-person presbytery meetings on both Saturday, August 7th and Saturday, October 16th. Our presbytery will follow the most up-to-date CDC guidelines regarding safety protocol.
6. Acting on behalf of the presbytery, approved the sale of three (3) rental properties owned by St. Paul (Cordele).
7. Acting on behalf of the presbytery, acknowledged receipt of a letter from Bainbridge requesting "Relief of Conscience" in the Board of Pensions.
8. Received minutes from the Adel Administration Commission. Minutes can be found in **Attachments, pgs. 41-44.**

Stated Clerk -- Becky Willis

9. Minutes and Records Review **deadline is August 31, 2021**. Clerks of Session may submit Minutes and Records to the Stated Clerk at bwillis123a@yahoo.com or by mailing copies of minutes to Becky Willis, 680 Bethany Church Rd., Bainbridge, GA 39817.

Other options for review are to submit Minutes and Records to members of the Minutes and Records Committee. Names and contact information found in the FRP Directory on FRP website. Minutes may also be peer-reviewed by swapping with another Clerk of Session. **A copy of the Session Records Report Form must be sent to the Stated Clerk if review is done by a committee member or by peer review.**

Note: Our denomination has made special arrangements for minutes review in our Korean congregations. Notification has been given regarding this option.

10. The first of our online “Clerk’s Corner” training sessions has been completed. The final session of 2021 is scheduled October 26th via Zoom at 7:00 pm. If any additional training is needed, please contact Becky Willis, Stated Clerk, with your request.

11. Presbytery-approved minimums regarding Terms of Call are as follows:

Installed Pastors: \$40,000 (cash salary with housing allowance) or \$30,770 (with manse)

Certified Christian Educators: \$30,000

**Please [see FRP website](#) for a more complete explanation.

12. **August 21st at 10 am:** REQUIRED Healthy Boundaries training via Zoom that all minister members, educators, campus ministers, youth leaders, etc. must attend. More info to follow!

Committee on Ministry (COM) – Glenn Gilstrap, moderator

13. The following contracts were approved through 12/31/2021 **unless noted differently:**

Northeast Cluster:

Sarah McClelland-Brown as stated supply at First (Warner Robins)

Central Cluster:

Wade Spooner as CRE for Cuba

Thomas “Tom” McFarland as CRE for First (Cuthbert)

Hugh Ward as interim at First (Tifton)

Southern Cluster:

Melissa Coleman as CRE for The Center @ VSU

14. Approved a 3-year waiver from the terms of service to Elmodel, as permitted under G-2.040 in *The Book of Order*

15. Examined and approved Bradley “Brad” Knox Walker and his Terms of Call as the Installed Pastor at First (Moultrie) , pending the results of the June 20, 2021 congregational meeting. Installation information will be forthcoming. **(See Bio & Statement of Faith in Attachments, pgs.6-7)**
16. Examined and graduated the following TREs of the 2021 Buddy Leach Class of the Gerald L. Voyer School for Ruling Elders:
 - Melissa Coleman, Trinity (Valdosta)
 - Angie Davis, First (Bainbridge)
 - Annie Garrard, New Hope
 - Raymond Haggard, First (Warner Robins)
 - Patti Kauffmann, Beth Salem
 - Paul Kauffmann, Beth Salem
 - W. Kent Sanders, Elmodel
 - Grant Wright, Trinity (Valdosta)
17. The following actions were approved:
 - Commissioned Melissa Coleman to the Center at VSU
 - Note that this is not a change in her position, which she has held for 6+ years, but rather a specific commissioning which allows her to minister to students by celebrating the sacraments and officiating at weddings. **(See Commissioning Project in Attachments, pgs.8-15)**
 - Changed HK Johnston’s status to *Honorably Retired*
 - Released Jarred Hammet to New Harmony Presbytery
18. Created a PNC Liaison Task Force to develop more training and support guidelines for both PNCs and Liaisons. Task force members will include Angie Davis, Sharon McFarland, Kent Sanders, and Deb Tregaskis.
19. Noted that the installation of Connie Happell at Edgewood (Columbus) will take place on Sunday, September 12 at 4 pm.
20. Emphasized the crucial work of our congregational liaisons, who are to stay engaged with their assigned congregations *through regular prayer and communication*. **Every congregation has a COM liaison.** Please note “your person” and keep them informed of special events through weekly updates or monthly newsletters.

Northwest Cluster

Connie Happell
conniehappell@gmail.com
 913-205-2363 (cell)
 Carver Heights
 First (Columbus)

Paul Kauffmann
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 706-566-3434 (cell)
 Edgewood
 New Hope

Northeast Cluster

Glenn Gilstrap
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 Forsyth
 Ft. Valley

Ralph Hawkins
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 St. Andrews
 Washington Ave.

Denise Porter
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Beth Salem

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Central Cluster

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Fort Gaines
Tifton

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Cuthbert
Elmodel
St. Paul

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CK Smith
Covenant
Trinity (Sylvester)

Kent Sanders
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First (Albany)
Camilla
First (Americus)

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Thomaston
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Northminster
Westminster

Southern Cluster

Sherrida Crawford
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First (Moultrie)
Trinity (Valdosta)
Twin Lakes/West End

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Cairo & Dawes
First (Donalsonville)

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Dillon Road
First (Valdosta)
Quitman
Second (Thomasville)

Finance Committee (FIN) – Ginny Sanders, moderator

21. Moved Paycheck Protection Plan (PPP) monies from being shown as “Current Income” to a restricted asset fund named “Real Property Maintenance Fund” to be available for maintenance on properties *such as Adel* that need ongoing care until sold.
22. Offered tremendous thanks for the generosity of New Hope who gave 10% of the proceeds of the sale of the All Saints property to the presbytery.
23. Established FRP Sunday as September 26, 2021 as a way of “stewarding” and giving thanks for the gifts of local congregants who participate in presbytery committees.
24. Noted that the 2019 Financial Review has been completed without exceptions. The 2020 Financial Review is nearing completion.

The following attachments are included for your benefit:

- Per Capita Report as of May 31, 2021 (See Attachments, pg. 16)
- Pledge Report as of May 31, 2021 (See Attachments, pg. 17)
- Operating Budget Performance (OBP) as of May 31, 2021 (See Attachments, pgs. 18-24)
- Special Funds Narrative Report as of May 31, 2021 (See Attachments, pgs. 25-28)
- Balance Sheet as of May 31, 2021 (See Attachments, pgs. 29-30)

In this past year of pandemic, your Finance Committee continues to be endlessly grateful for the steady and generous giving of our congregations. Thank you! Rest assured that this committee continues to pray, collaborate, and discern how to stretch pennies into dollars. Our staff are doing no less!

Remember! As a cost-saving measure, the presbytery office has an excellent XEROX machine, the contract of which does not end until April 2024. **This lease can be transferred to any congregation and/or non-profit organization in need of a new copier. The presbytery would be willing to share in the cost of the contract as potential grant.** Please be in touch with Elizabeth Cantrell at 229.435.9726 if this is something you would like to further explore.

Specifications for copier:

- Model: EC7856
- 110 Sheet Single Pass Automatic Document Feeder
- 5 Paper Sources for total capacity of 3140 sheets
- Copy / Print / Scan functionality
- Print speeds up to 55 pages per minute black and white and 50 pages per minute full color
- Integrates with Xerox App Gallery

Lease details:

- \$117.38 per month plus click charges at \$0.01 per black/white and \$0.069 per color print
- Click charges are capped at 5% escalation year over year
- Contract includes all service and supplies except paper

Committee on Mission and Evangelism (CME)

-- Rita Montgomery, moderator, and Pam Moyer, volunteer staff associate

25. Established Campus Ministry Sunday and set the date as Sunday, September 12, 2021 with the purpose of raising awareness of the work done by our four campus ministries. A bulletin insert for use by our congregations on this date can be found in **Attachments, pgs. 31-32.**

26. Funded a second round of grants through the Walter Flint Fund totaling \$41,790.00 to the following congregations. **Please note:** *Each fall, the Finance committee uses a 16-quarter spending plan that was adopted in 2019 in order to determine how much **interest** from the fund will be given to this committee for the purpose of supporting small-member congregations in their mission and ministry. These funds do not touch the corpus, ensuring that congregations will be supported for decades to come!*

Forsyth	\$14,940.00
Ft. Gaines	\$8700.00
Washington Ave	\$10,000.00
Westminster	\$8150.00

27. Determined that the balance remaining in funds given from the Walter Flint Fund account for small church grants -- \$5209.00 -- would be divided between 35 churches with membership of 100 or less. Approximately \$148 per church was distributed.

28. Recommended that the August FRP meeting offering go to the International Mission partnership with the Guatemala Union of Presbyterian Women.

29. Approved requesting from the Finance Committee that \$5000 for international mission in 2022 be distributed as follows:

- \$1500 for Guatemala Union of Presbyterian Women
- \$1500 toward the support of the Haugen’s ministry in Iraq
- \$2000 toward a future mission trip to Guatemala

30. Plans for our presbytery-wide “Rise Against Hunger” events on October 3, World Communion Sunday, have begun.

Please note that events will be held at the following locations this year:

NE Cluster: Forsyth

NW Cluster: First (Columbus)

Central Cluster: Americus

Southern Cluster: Moultrie (SE)

More details about start times will be forthcoming. In the meantime, please save the afternoon, spread the word, and bring your congregation to the nearest site!

ACTION ITEMS

Advisory Board -- Fields Varner, Moderator

1. **Recommends** that the presbytery place the office building located at 826 Liberty Expressway, S. E., Albany, Georgia, on the market for sale and that the process of closing the building begin immediately following the August presbytery meeting. (The Advisory Board's *Building As Mission Task Force* has compiled supporting information to offer both a clear rationale and a careful process for this recommendation approved by presbytery. **This information is found in Attachments, pg. 33**)
2. **Requests permission** from the presbytery for authority to contract with a realtor(s), negotiate the sale of the building, and to authorize the Advisory Board (who serve as Trustees of the Corporation) to sign sales and closing legal documents.
3. **Recommends** that the presbytery endorse Marilyn Tucker Marek to stand as Co-Moderator for the 2022 PC(USA) General Assembly. **(See reflections and discernment process in Attachments, pgs. 39-40.)**
4. Endorses the Finance Committee's proposed disbursements from the sale of the Oakland property in the amount of \$142,475 and **recommends presbytery approval** of the Finance Committee's disbursal plan as follows:
 - Fully repay \$62,500 to the Macon Campus Ministry Fund from which the presbytery borrowed in 2013, 2014, and 2015 to fund the operating expenses of the presbytery
 - Place \$20,000 in the Campus Ministry Endowment Fund
 - Place \$20,000 in the Young Adult Ministry Intern Scholarship Program
 - Place \$20,000 in the Technology Fund
 - Place \$19,975 in the Harry Halpert Fund
5. Endorses the Finance Committee's proposed disbursements from the \$60,000 gift of New Hope to the presbytery after the All Saints property was sold and **recommends presbytery approval** of the Finance Committee's disbursal plan as follows:
 - \$55,000 be placed in the Campus Ministry Endowment Fund
 - \$5,000 in the Creativity Fund
6. The Advisory Board **recommends adoption** of the proposed amendments to the Flint River Presbytery's Manual of Operation. The Advisory Board has heard the two required readings of the proposed amendments prior to this recommendation for adoption by the presbytery. **(See Attachments, pgs. 34-38.)**

Nominating Committee – Scott Bryan and Nancy Reimer, Co-Moderators

7. Recommends the approval of the following slate of nominees along with the endorsement of the Representation Committee. (**More nominees will be forthcoming in October.**)

Advisory Board

Fields Varner (Southern)

COM

Ralph Hawkins (NE)

Education and Nurture

Bennett Enfinger (Southern)

Finance

Ernie Purcell (Southern)

Mark Montgomery (NW)

Nominating

Faye Isele (Central)

Insick Jang (NW)

Dot Leach (NE)

Mac Moyer (Central)

Overtures/Resolutions

Dick Shelton (Southern)

Personnel

Stephanie Eubanks (NE)