



Handbook
Flint River Presbytery
133rd Stated Meeting



October 16, 2021

Ordinary Time 2021

Dear Flint River Saints,

Fall is upon us and, although the days may be growing shorter, our resurrection hope only grows stronger. And it needs to! After all, the past 18 months have been strange and hard. However, in the midst of so much uncertainty and loss, acts of generosity, courage, and creativity continue to surface in beautiful and unexpected ways. If you pay attention, you'll see many glimmers of this goodness as you read through this packet. It is the result of hundreds of Flint River disciples who gather, serve, discern, and act. *Thank you!*

More specifically, **this packet is designed to assist you in preparing for the 133rd Stated Meeting in-person meeting of Flint River Presbytery**, which is to be held at **the Flint River Presbytery office**, located at **826 Liberty Expressway SE, Albany on Saturday, October 16, 2021**. **Please dress very casually and comfortably as we will be outside for a portion of our time together.**

This meeting will be full of sacred moments as we remember those who have died in the past year, while also celebrating ordination anniversaries, a retirement, and even the Lord's Supper. **After our action items, we will conclude our meeting with a service of thanksgiving for the office space before it is sold.**

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 commissions. **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.**

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 delicious, locally-catered boxed lunch will be \$8.** 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, October 7th** 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, October 16, 2021

@ the Flint River Presbytery Office in Albany, Georgia

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

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

Registration with Office Manager, Elizabeth Cantrell 9:30 am

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

Gathering as God's People

Opening Worship with Communion 10 am

*The offering today will go support our Hunger Fund so that
we may assist congregations and campuses in their feeding ministries.*

You can go to www.flintriverpresbytery.org to give online or use the Give Plus+ app.
In both places, please note that this is your gift offered at the October 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

Retirement Resolution for John Akers of Twin Lakes/West End
Glenn Gilstrap, COM Moderator

Connecting the Dots: Making our Presbytery Packet Come to Life!
Deb Tregaskis, Executive Presbyter

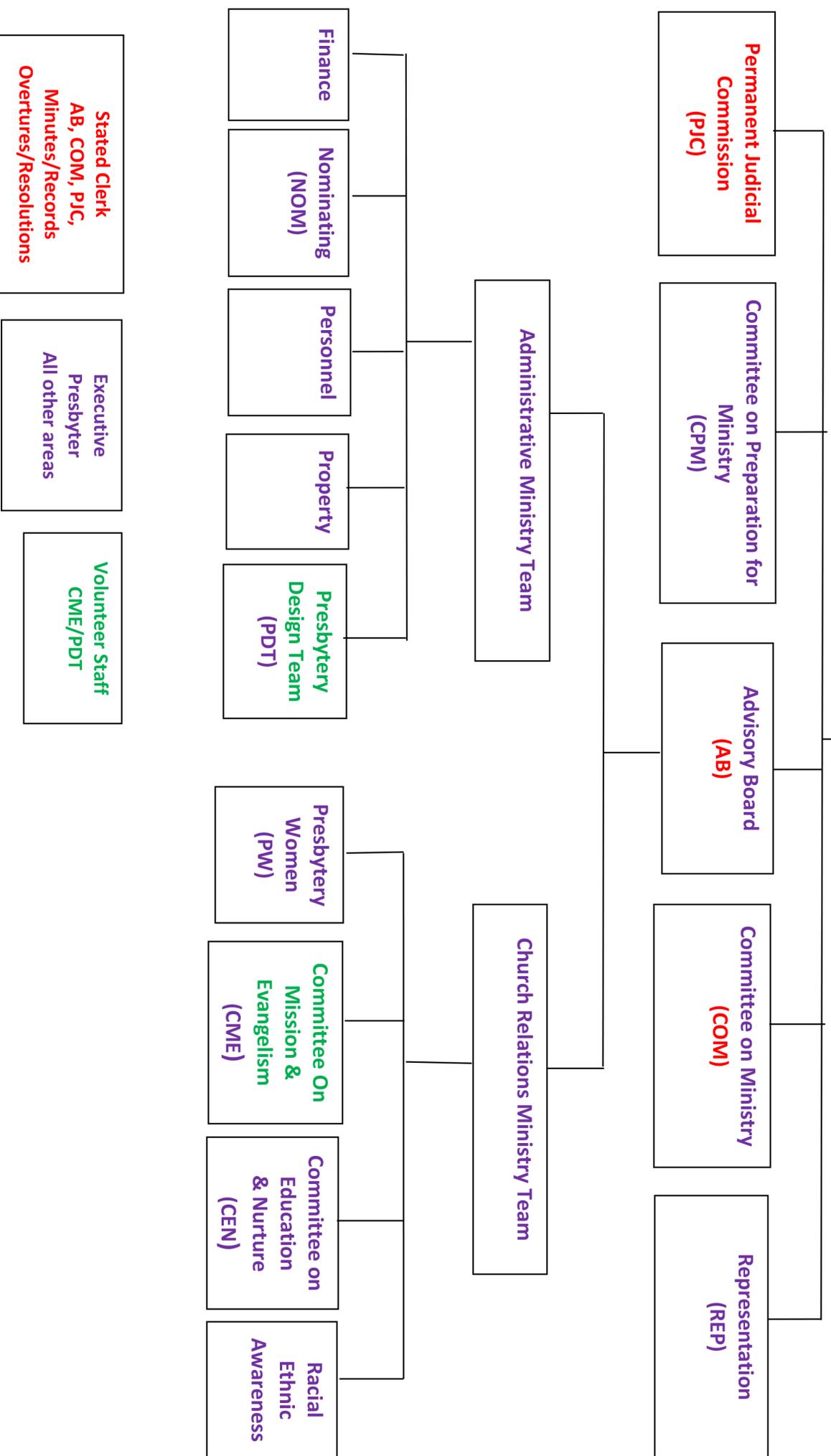
Information about our Joint Ministries Patti Kauffmann, FRP Moderator

- Advisory Board p. 5
- Stated Clerk Report p. 6
- Committees and Commissions p. 7-9

Action Items p. 9-10

Addendum Reports p. 11

Flint River Presbytery Committee Structure/Staff Responsibility



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, noting that this agricultural parable sits between similar images of green and growing vegetation: the garden of Eden in Genesis and the tree of life in Revelation. Further noted that God wastes nothing -- whether challenges or celebrations -- in the arc of redemption.
2. Approved the agenda for this meeting. (The minutes from our previous presbytery have not yet been approved; however, they are attached here for your awareness and review. (See pages 2-7 in Attachments)
3. Acting on behalf of Flint River Presbytery under its granted authority, approved on September 7 a counteroffer on the presbytery office building and property of \$204,000.00, as recommended by Mike Flynn from Albany Realty, which raised the initial offer by the buyer, Good Shepherd House of Worship, of \$189,000.00. Also approved a raise in the earnest money from \$500.00 to \$2000.00.
4. Again, acting on behalf of Flint river Presbytery under its granted authority, approved on September 16 a counteroffer from Good Shepherd House of Worship, of \$199,900.00 for purchase of the presbytery office building and property with a proposed closing date of October 18, 2021.
5. Determined that proceeds from the Saturday, October 2, 2021, Estate Sale of presbytery office equipment, furniture, supplies, and books will be placed in the Real Property Maintenance Fund along with the proceeds of the sale of the presbytery office and property. Once the sale of the building was finalized and input from committees and commissions was received by the Finance Committee, the Finance Committee will propose to the presbytery a plan to use these funds in future mission and outreach.
6. Acting on behalf of the presbytery, granted "Relief of Conscience" status with the Board of Pensions to the congregation of First (Bainbridge).
7. Concurred with the recommendation of the Personnel Committee to give 3% raises to salaried staff in 2022.
8. Noted with gratitude the work of the Adel Administrative Commission as they work through the many details surrounding the closing and eventual sale of this former congregation and its property. Members of this committee are Bonny Dorough, Property Moderator, Jim Lowry, DonaLee Preston, former CRE of this congregation, Dick Shelton, recorder, Jane Shelton, and Don West, moderator. The most recent report from this commission can be found in Attachments, pages 8-9.

Stated Clerk -- Becky Willis

9. The 2020 minutes of Flint River Presbytery have been peer reviewed with no exceptions. The minutes have been sent to the Synod for attestation. A final report will be given at the February 5, 2022, meeting of the presbytery.
10. The guidance and communication of the Synod and General Assembly were considered in training opportunities, assistance with recruiting and empowering commissioners to General Assembly, and review of the minutes and records of Flint River Presbytery.
11. The final “Clerk’s Corner” training of this year is scheduled for Tuesday, October 26, 2021, at 7:00 pm via Zoom. Clerks of Session and any other interested parties are invited to attend. Although a notice of the training will be sent out with log in information, access to *any* planned training within the presbytery is available by clicking on the event on the FRP calendar at www.flintriverpresbytery.org. **“Clerk’s Corner” training in 2022 is planned for January 25, April 26, July 26, and October 25. Each training will be via Zoom at 7:00 pm.**
12. Session Minutes and Records Review was conducted primarily during August 2021. To date, 63% of sessions have submitted their minutes and records for review. The Stated Clerk, or members of the Minutes and Records Committee (whose names and contact information can be found on the FRP website), will continue to review minutes and records, **but all minutes should be submitted for review no later than October 31, 2021.**
13. The option for sessions to begin entering statistical data for 2021 will be available beginning December 3, 2021. **The deadline for entry of statistical data is January 31, 2022.** *Reminder: The statistical data on file with the Office of General Assembly is used in determining the amount of each congregation’s Per Capita apportionment.*
14. All Terms of Call and contracts for 2021 have been received and determined to meet or exceed presbytery minimums. These minimums can be found on the presbytery website at the *Pastors* tab under *Beginning a Call*.
15. **All Terms of Call and contracts for 2022 are due to the presbytery no later than January 31, 2022.** Terms of Call forms and a variety of contract templates are available on the presbytery website (www.flintriverpresbytery.org) at the *Clerk of Session* tab under *Forms*. Terms of Call should be submitted for installed pastors after the congregational meeting. Contracts should be submitted after session approval. Completed Terms of Call and contracts should be submitted to the Stated Clerk at bwillis123a@yahoo.com and copied to the FRP Office Manager at ecantrell@flintriverpresbytery.org for review by the Committee on Ministry.
16. “Healthy Boundaries” Training was conducted on August 21, 2021. This **mandated** training for all pastoral and ministry leaders is available on the FRP website under the *Pastors* tab in *General Information*. The deadline for receiving the training was September 30, 2021. **If you still have not received the training, please contact the Stated Clerk immediately.**

Committee on Ministry (COM) – Glenn Gilstrap, moderator

17. Continued to pray about and reflect upon the particular needs of 81% of our congregations (34/42) which are less than 100 members.
18. Approved in theory the proposal for a new part-time presbytery staff position, Coordinator for Smaller Congregations and referred to the Advisory Board for consideration and further input. (See Attachments pages 10-11.) A team of Connie Happell, Richard Hawks, and Glenda Hollingshead was formed refine the proposal, should it be acceptable by the Advisory Board.
19. Conferred the status of Honorably Retired to John Akers with a retirement date of December 31, 2021.
20. Approved the Installation Commission for Connie Happell as Designated Pastor at Edgewood. (See Attachments: page 12.)
21. Dissolved the pastoral relationship between Anghaarad Teague-Dees and Trinity (Valdosta), pending congregational vote. Further approved a transfer of her membership to Peaks Presbytery upon their request. Her call to Quaker Memorial Presbyterian Church (Lynchburg, Virginia) begins October 18, 2021.
22. Heard an update from the PNC Support Team, consisting of Angie Davis, Sharon McFarland, and Kent Sanders, as they seek to strengthen PNC training and support for our congregations.

Finance Committee (FIN) – Ginny Bolton, moderator.

23. Noted with incredible gratitude and thanksgiving that our 6-month reports reveal 55% of pledges and 78% of Per Capita has already been received for 2021.
24. Concluded final plans for 2022 Stewardship. An e-mail packet with an explanatory letter, educational brochures, and a pledge form were sent the week of September 7 to all pastors and clerks. Responses are needed by **January 31, 2022.** The stewardship materials can be found in Attachments, pages 13-19.
25. Appropriated \$10,000.00 from the Campus Ministry Endowment Fund earnings for distribution through CME for Campus Ministry needs in 2022.
26. Appropriated \$200,000.00 of the Walter Flint Fund income for the Mission Enhancement Grants, which are reviewed and distributed through the Committee on Mission and Evangelism.
27. Approved the following line item additions to the 2022 Proposed Budget:
 - \$200,000.00 Grants for Mission Enhancement from the Walter Flint Fund
 - \$10,000.00 Campus Ministry Endowment Fund
 - \$10,000.00 Macon Campus Ministry
 - \$13,398.00 Flint River Presbytery Per Capita for 2022
 - \$10,000.00 Carryover from 2021 budget

28. Moved to leave the 2022 Flint River Presbytery Per Capita amount at \$4.27

Per Capita for 2022 is \$15.75

Per Capita for 2020 and 2021 was \$15.75

General Assembly - \$8.98
Synod of the South Atlantic - \$2.50
Flint River Presbytery –\$4.27

**Although GA and synod per capita amounts increased in 2021,
FRP's per capita decreased in 2021 and will remain decreased in 2022
in order to keep our total per capita, the same.**

**Our presbytery's Finance Committee remains
deeply grateful for our congregations' generosity and continues to trust in God's providence.**

29. The following attachments are included for your benefit:

- Per Capita Report as of August , 2021 (See Attachments, page 20)
- Pledge Report as of August , 2021 (See Attachments, page 21)
- Operating Budget Performance (OBP) as of August, 2021 (See Attachments, pgs. 22-29)
- Balance Sheet as of August, 2021 (See Attachments, pgs. 30-31)
- Special Funds Narrative Report as of August , 2021 (See Attachments, pgs. 32-35)

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!

If you've read this far in our information packet, congratulations!

Text or e-mail our Executive Presbyter to let her know 2 things which you appreciated learning thus far.

The first 10 Presbyterians to respond will receive a gift at our October meeting!

Committee on Mission and Evangelism (CME)

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

Grant Applications for the Walter Flint Fund are available on our website and due for submission no later than **Monday, November 15, 2021**. Any congregation with a membership of less than 100 members is eligible to apply. **CLICK HERE**

Congregations who received grant funding during 2021 must submit a report by December 1, 2021.

CLICK HERE

Committee on Preparation for Ministry (CPM)

-- Sommer Bower and Bryan Wright, co-moderators

30. Approved, at her request, the removal of Lily Ingle from the roll of Inquirers.
31. Approved the inclusion of Charlotte Caldwell, CRE of Beth Salem, to be taken under care as an Inquirer within Flint River Presbytery.

Personnel Committee - J.D. Sumner, moderator

32. Met with the staff as a whole, each of whom expressed a love and calling to their work, although it is challenging at times.
33. Approved the provision of 3% raises for salaried employees for 2022.
34. Approved the annual provision of pension funding for Office Manager Elizabeth Cantrell.

ACTION ITEMS

Committee on Preparation for Ministry – Sommer Bower and Bryan Wright, Co-Moderators

35. Recommends **Kathy Tessin** for Candidacy and requests that our presbytery examine Ms. Tessin on the floor, to be followed by a vote to receive her as a Candidate under our care. If the examination is sustained, a short service to received her under Candidacy Care will follow.
36. Recommends **Matthew Cowell** for Candidacy and requests that our presbytery examine Mr. Cowell on the floor, to be followed by a vote to receive her as a Candidate under our care. If the examination is sustained, a short service to received her under Candidacy Care will follow.
37. Nominates **Colleen Cook**, pastor of New Hope, to serve as the minister of Word and Sacrament Ordination Reader along with **Bryan Wright**, ruling elder from Trinity (Valdosta), from our presbytery for the PC(USA) standard ordination exam readers as requested by the Presbyteries' Cooperative Committee on Examinations for Candidates (G-3.0302b). Also nominate **Grant Wright**, trained ruling elder from Trinity (Valdosta) as an alternate.

Finance Committee – Ginny Bolton, moderator

38. Recommends the adoption of the proposed 2022 budget. (*See Attachments, pages 36-39)

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

39. Recommends the approval of the following slate of nominees along with the endorsement of the Representation Committee.

Presbytery Moderator

Glenda Hollingshead (Southern)

Presbytery Vice Moderator

Joshua Bower (Central)

Advisory Board (AB)

Cathy Hoover (Southern)

Committee on Ministry (COM)

Sarah Dismuke (NE)

Danny Dieth (NW)

John Erthein (Southern)

Brenda Rackley (NE)

Bill Smith (Southern)

Finance (FIN)

Bill Wicks (Southern)

Nominating (NOM)

Joshua Bower (Central)

Virgil Marshall (NW)

Jane Shelton (Southern)

Ruth Stonestreet (Southern)

Personnel

Chris Posey (NW)