



Handbook

Flint River Presbytery

134th Stated Meeting



February 5, 2022



Debra Tregaskis, Executive Presbyter
Rebecca Willis, Stated Clerk
Toni Hatfield, Bookkeeper
Elizabeth Cantrell, Office Manager

Flint River Saints,

This packet of information is intended to assist you in preparing for the virtual 134th Stated Meeting of Flint River Presbytery on **Saturday, February 5, 2022**. Online registration will begin at 9:30 a.m.

After installing our new moderator, Glenda Hollingshead from First (Valdosta), this meeting will feature a “Buffet of Blessings” where you will hear about the rich variety of offerings available through our presbytery and denomination. Each offering is being lifted up so that you, as commissioners, are aware of the many “support avenues” available to each and every congregation. All of these avenues are designed to strengthen the witness of our local congregations. In between these verbal reflections, you’ll be given opportunity to catch your breath and bask in rich and textured music, all while giving thanks to our God who makes all things new.

The pages that follow will include the usual agenda and reports, along with information and action items from our committees. Please read all the enclosed material carefully prior to coming to the meeting so you can make informed and intentional decisions. Remember that there may Addendum items for your review as well; however, they will not go online until Thursday, February 3rd if there are additional pieces to add to our meeting. **After our meeting, please be certain to share key information with your Session and congregation.**

Please note as well that our offering for the day will go to support our presbytery-wide efforts of hospitality toward refugee resettlement. You can give by going online to www.flintriverpresbytery.org or using the GivePlus+ App. In both formats, please add a memo noting that your gift is for the Feb 2022 FRP offering. Thank you!

As you prepare for this meeting, **do try to attend the meeting using both video and audio, if possible, as you will be invited to participate using the chat feature throughout the morning.**

As you well know, our connection to Jesus Christ and to one another matters more than ever during this long COVID season.

We look forward to seeing your faces as we serve our Lord Jesus Christ together!

We trust that we'll get a glimpse of your adorable children/grandchildren and your unruly pets too!

In Christ's Joy and Hope,

Deb, Becky, Elizabeth, and Toni

2800 Old Dawson Road, Suite 2, Box 312 , Albany, GA 31707



Empower

Encourage

Engage

Equip

Experiment

Agenda of the Presbytery of Flint River of the Presbyterian Church (USA)

Saturday, February 5, 2022

Online meeting

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

Online Registration with Ministry Associate, Elizabeth Cantrell

9:30 am

Gathering as God's People

Welcome from Outgoing Moderator at 10 am

Patti Kauffmann

Opening Prayer and Installation of our New Moderator

Patti Kauffmann

Music of Celebration and Thanksgiving

A Biblical and Theological Framework for our Life Together

Glenda Hollingshead

Call to Order

Glenda Hollingshead

Approval of the Agenda

Proclaiming the Good News

Connecting the Dots: Making Sense of our Packet and our Meeting

Debra Tregaskis

Music for Reflection and Prayer

**A Buffet of Blessings:
An Opportunity to Savor the Gifts which Strengthen our Congregational Witness**

Recipients of the YAMI (Young Adult Ministry Intern) 2021 Scholarship

Ella Cole Alderman and Ella Hawkins from Northminster (Macon)
Bios and project information can be found on page 11

Musical Interlude



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Recipient of the SDOP (Self-Development of People) Grant from the PC(USA)

Elizabeth Dede

Recipients of our presbytery's Campus Ministry funding

Students from Macon UKirk and GSW

Musical Interlude

Thornwell Update

Ricky Smith and Krystle Hillary, Advancement Officer

Board of Pensions Update

Clark Simmons, Church Consultant

Additional info can be found on pages 11-12 of the Attachments

Musical Interlude

Information about our Joint Ministries

Advisory Board

pages 6-7

Stated Clerk Report

pages 7-8

Committees and Commissions

pages 8-11

Action Item From the Advisory Board

Requests that the presbytery form an Administrative Commission (AC) for the purpose of handling all administrative details surrounding the closing the Twin Lakes and West End congregations. The commission will have authority to do the following:

- Determining future use of building(s) if not sold
- Listing of property for sale and negotiation of sale price
- Deposition of building contents

Administrative Commission members who have agreed to serve if elected by the presbytery are as follows: John Akers, former pastor of congregations, Jeff Bickers of Trinity (Valdosta), Dick and Jane Shelton of First (Valdosta) and Don West (Boston). Becky Willis as Stated Clerk will serve as the advisory staff person to this commission.

Addendum Reports

Musical Interlude

Reflections on our Shared Life

Debra Tregaskis



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Announcements for the Common Good

- Pam Moye, Volunteer Staff Associate for CME

Annual Meeting of the Corporation of Flint River Presbytery, Inc.

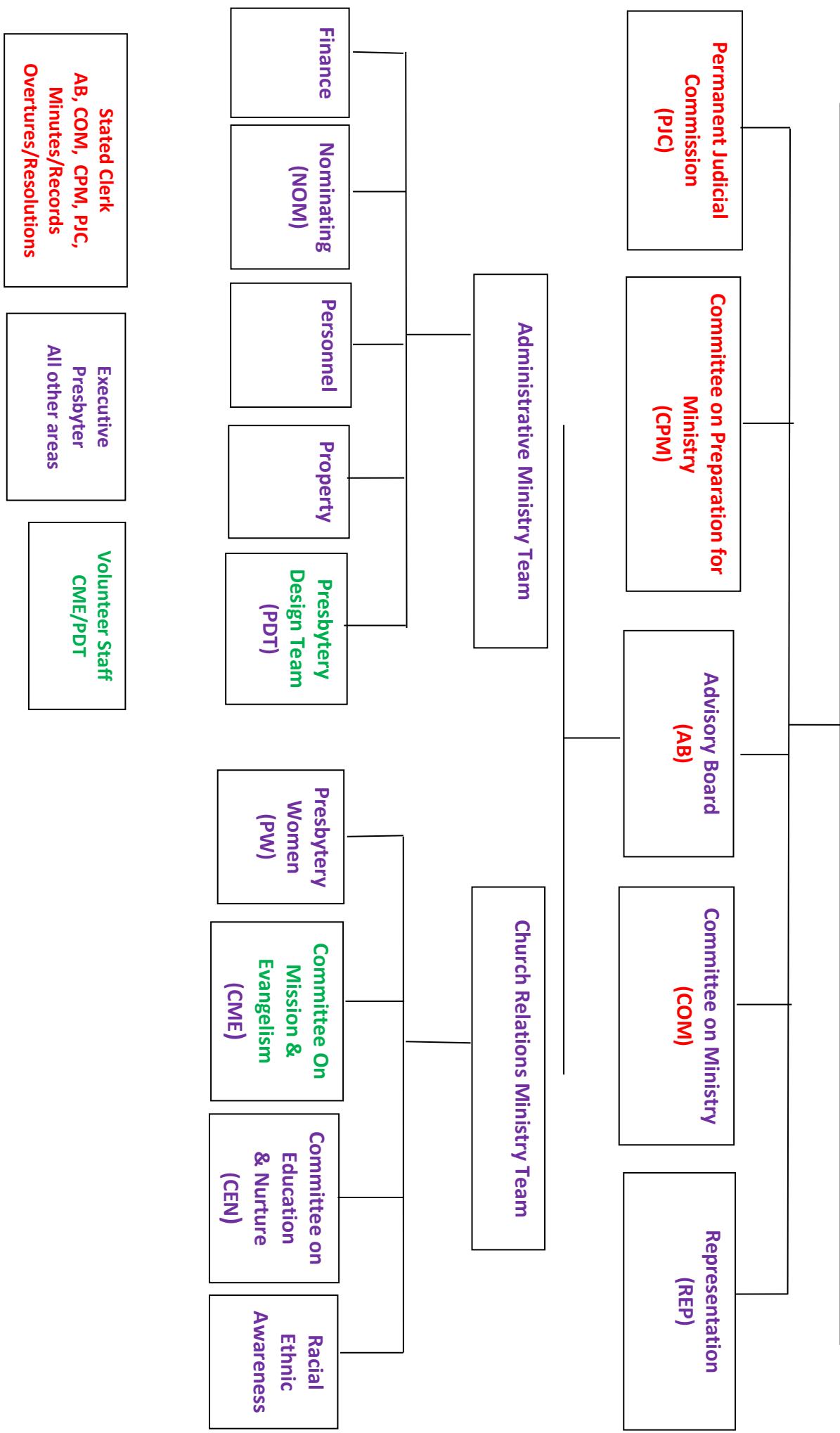
Sending God' People to Serve

Blessing and Sending

Virtual Coffee Hour

Flint River Presbytery Committee Structure/Staff Responsibility

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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 44 worshipping communities (40 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”, recognizing the “wheat” or the many good things that are happening in our presbytery and the “weeds” or the old and divisive narratives that often drive fear or blame.
2. Reflected on Acts 27:13-20, the story of Paul and his companions in the “Storm at Sea” and gave thanks for the storm of the pandemic which our presbytery has weathered with flexibility, persistence, and hope. Technology has helped too!
3. Approved the agenda for this meeting as well as the minutes from the October 2021 presbytery meeting. (See pages 1-5 in Attachments)
4. Approved the addition of a new staff position, the *Small Church Coordinator*, which will be funded from the Walter Flint Fund. This position is designed to offer additional support and assistance to those pastoral leaders who do not fall into the category of full-time called and installed pastors. The job description and application for this position can be found on (pages 6-7 in the Attachments.) Completed applications should be sent to ecantrell@flintriverpresbytery.org by **Monday, March 7 at 4 pm**. This position has been created after months of careful conversation between the Advisory Board, the Committee on Ministry (COM), the Committee for Mission and Evangelism, (CME) and our Personnel Committee.
5. Approved the change of Elizabeth Cantrell’s title from *Office Manager* to *Ministry Associate* to reflect the shift of her responsibilities. This decision was made in close consultation with the Personnel Committee. This change in title recognizes the changing role Elizabeth plays since the sale of the presbytery office. With no building to manage, Elizabeth will expand her role to visit at least one church in each cluster during worship or Wednesday Night Supper (4 congregations/year) and also join with our Executive Presbyter in our new offerings, “Lunch and Learn: Flint River Presbytery on the Road!” which will be held once a year in each cluster. **Our first “Lunch and Learn” event will be held in the NW Cluster on Tuesday, February 22 at Edgewood from 11 am to 2 pm. Lunch included.**

Our other Lunch and Learn events are scheduled as follows for the year and host churches are needed for two of our events!

Tuesday, March 29 from 11 am to 2pm in the Southern Cluster. **Location TBD**

Tuesday, August 30 from 11 am to 2 pm in the Central Cluster. **Location TBD**

Tuesday, September 13 from 11 am to 2 pm in the NE Cluster. Location: Northminster (Macon)

6. Reviewed the staff during its annual evaluations and expressed gratitude and approval. Also approved, in consultation with our Personnel Committee, that our Executive Presbyter will be on Sabbatical from October 1st to December 31, 2022, with the focus being “Reboot, Renew, and Rest.”

7. Noted with sadness that Donalsonville has entered the Discernment Process for leaving the denomination. Angie Davis, John Erthein, Robert Harrison, and Brad Walker have all agreed to serve on the Discernment Team in collaboration with Donalsonville. Fields Varner will serve as the facilitator of the team. Prayers marked by love and hope were offered for our sisters and brothers in the Donalsonville congregation.
8. Acting on behalf of presbytery, approved the newest slates of volunteers from the Nominating and Representation Committees. This action was taken on behalf of the presbytery so that these individuals could begin serving immediately in 2022.
 - Linda Gunn, General Assembly Ruling Elder (NW)
 - Nancy Reimer, General Assembly Ruling Elder, alternate (Central)
 - Joann Pollock, AB member at large (Central)
 - Darryl Pierce, AB member at large (NW)
 - Lindsey Williams, CME (South)
 - Sidney Leak and Stephen White, CPM (South and NW)
 - Terri Clark, COM (Central)
 - Jenny Savelle, Representation (Central)
 - Beth Tyrer, CEN (Central)
9. Ratified by consensus the previously accepted initiative of sending \$1,000 from our Disaster Assistance Fund for meals and repairs for a dozen Kentucky students whose homes were severely damaged in the winter storms.

Stated Clerk -- Becky Willis

10. Terms of Call, pastoral contracts, and annual reports are due by January 31, 2022, for review by the Committee on Ministry. Terms of Call for installed pastors require a congregational meeting to approve. Pastoral contracts require Session approval only. **If you have not yet submitted these documents, please do so immediately.** Email the completed forms to ecantrell@flintriverpresbytery.org.
11. The one-page form for Terms of Call and the forms for contracts and annual reports may be found on the FRP website on the *Clerk of Session* page under *Forms*. The CRE/CE Annual Report form can also be found on the *Pastors* page at the presbytery website.
12. Please note that our presbytery-approved minimums regarding Terms of Call are as follows:
 - Installed Pastors: \$40,000 (cash salary with housing allowance) \$30,770 (with manse)
 - Certified Christian Educators: \$30,000[Click here for more info on presbytery minimums.](#)
13. The deadline for annual statistical reporting was January 31, 2022. If you have not entered your data yet please contact the Stated Clerk immediately for assistance. **Important Note:** Reported statistical data to the Office of General Assembly is used in the determination of Per Capita apportionment as well as the development of mission outreach and educational opportunities.
14. The 2020 minutes of Flint River Presbytery have been peer reviewed and attested by the Synod of the South Atlantic with no exceptions.
15. The membership rolls of Flint River Presbytery as of December 31, 2021 require the review of the presbytery (**See pages 8-10 of the Attachments.**) Each commissioner is asked to review the rolls and report

any concern to the Stated Clerk. Please remember that, if you are listed as a member of the presbytery, you are expected to attend presbytery meetings unless a request is made of the Stated Clerk for an excused absence. The only exception to this requirement regards our honorably retired members, who are encouraged to attend the meetings but not *required*.

16. The roll of Teaching Elders (Ministers of Word and Sacrament) and Ruling Elder commissioners does not require revision to achieve the goal of numerical parity as specified in G-3.0301 (*Book of Order*).
17. "Clerk's Corner" Quarterly Training for 2022 dates are scheduled for 7pm via Zoom: January 25, April 26, July 26, and October 25.
18. **ACTION ITEM:** To change language in our current discernment policy. (*The full policy can be found on our website under *Clerk of Sessions/Policies*.)

Current language in paragraph 3, page 2: The Advisory Board of the Presbytery, acting on behalf of Flint River Presbytery, shall designate two Ruling Elders and two Ministers of Word and Sacrament to represent the Presbytery in the discernment process.

Proposed language: The Advisory Board of the Presbytery, acting on behalf of Flint River Presbytery, shall designate four elders (ruling or teaching) to represent the Presbytery in the discernment process.

Rationale: 50% of our congregations are served by individuals who are not Ministers of Word and Sacrament. A loosening of this stipulation will allow us to draw from a broader scope of volunteers.

Committee on Ministry (COM) – Paul Kauffmann, moderator

19. Continued to pray about and reflect upon the particular needs of our marvelous "mustard seed" congregations, 80% of which are less than 100 members.
20. Examined and approved Sidney Leak, honorably retired, whose membership is being transferred from the Presbytery of South Alabama, and Lindsey Williams, member at large, whose membership is being transferred from the Presbytery of the James.
21. Heard from -- and reflected with -- the Small Church Coordinator Team of Connie Happell (Edgewood), Richard Hawks (honorably retired), and Glenda Hollingshead (Trinity/Valdosta) as plans evolved and solidified around this position.
22. Heard an update from and further reviewed a working draft of "Working with a Pastor Nominating Committee as a COM Liaison" from the PNC Support Team, consisting of Angie Davis (Bainbridge), Sharon McFarland (Americus), and Kent Sanders (Elmodel), as they seek to strengthen PNC training and support for our congregations. Another draft will be presented at the COM Meeting in January 2022.
23. Discussed how best to offer 2022 Ruling Elder Training this winter. 2 trainings have been set:

Saturday, February 26 (9 am to 1 pm, lunch included) at Northminster (Macon) with NE Cluster clergy serving as presenters and ruling elders offering reflections about "greatest learnings"

Saturday, February 26 (10 am to 2 pm, lunch included) at Cairo for the Central and Southern Clusters with Stated Clerk, Becky Willis presenting.

COM hopes that both events can be recorded and then spliced into short, topical trainings that will be placed online.

24. Approved a request from New Hope (Columbus) for a \$20,000 grant from the Columbia Theological Seminary/FRP Initiative Fund for the third and final year.

25. These contracts were approved between the following:

Cairo	Becky Willis (CRE) through December 31, 2022
Dawes	Becky Willis (CRE) through December 31, 2022
Donalsonville	Stephen Webb (Interim) through April 30, 2022
First (Cordele)	Mary Runyon through May 2022
Trinity (Sylvester)	Brad Shealy (CRE) through December 31, 2022

26. Approved the appointment of Glenda Hollingshead as moderator at Trinity (Valdosta.)

27. Approved the appointment of Richard Hawks as Co-Moderator of First (Cordele) along with Nancy Reimer.

28. Approved the appointment of Jerry Little as moderator for a Trinity (Valdosta) Congregational Meeting on Sunday, November 21, 2021.

29. Approved the dismissal of Richard Gillespie, honorably retired, from the Flint River Presbytery and transferred his membership to the Presbytery of Mississippi, beginning October 28, 2021.

Finance Committee (FIN) – Frazer Loomis, moderator.

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.**

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!

30. Remember! The presbytery passed a balanced 2022 budget at our October 2021 meeting. Once the Finance Committee receives pledge amounts from all our congregations and reviews year-end reports in greater detail, an amended budget will be presented, if necessary, at future meeting.

Committee on Mission and Evangelism (CME)

-- Beth Jarrell, moderator, and Pam Moye, volunteer staff associate

31. Designated the recipient of the Flint River Presbytery February 5, 2022 meeting offering to be “Refugee Hospitality.”
32. Heard reports on opportunities to assist in hospitality efforts for refugees.
33. Noted an upcoming ZOOM call with George and Jeanne Haugen, who are serving overseas. George’s ministry is a validated ministry of our presbytery.
34. Heard about our campus ministry efforts at The Abbey at CSU, UKirk at Mercer, and The PresHouse at GSW
35. Approved \$30,000.00 from the Walter Flint Fund to fund the salary for the *Small Churches Coordinator* position in our presbytery.
36. Approved the award of Walter Flint Fund grant monies as noted for a total of \$132,891.00:

Beth Salem	\$16,000.00
Carver Heights	\$10,000.00
Cuba	\$12,000.00
Forsyth	\$21,291.00
St. Andrews	\$30,000.00
Thomaston	\$6500.00
First (Warner Robins)	\$30,000.00
Westminster	\$7100.00

37. Approved the balance of the remaining allocation of the Walter Flint Fund of \$33,666.00 be set aside for a second round of grants with a **due date of March 24, 2022.** [Click here for grant application information.](#)
38. Celebrated that 28/40 or 70% of our churches made a contribution to Rise Against Hunger. The annual event was held in October 2021 and host churches are currently needed for our October 2, 2022, Rise Against Hunger event always held on World Communion Sunday.

REMEMBER! Technology Fund Grant Application Due Date: February 28, 2022.
[Click here for application.](#)

Committee on Education and Nurture (CEN) -- Vickie Dieth, moderator

Montreat Youth Conference on June 11-18, 2022

Because the registration is online, Flint River will not register youth for this event.

[Click here for registration details.](#)

MARCH 15 deadline to insure youth have housing at Reynolds Lodge.

Please reach out to ecantrell@flintriverpresbytery.org with the total number of youth from your congregation attending. Rate increases by \$50 on April 1st.

YAMI (Young Adult Ministry Internship) Scholarships for 2022 are now available for all students, ages 16-23, who are enrolled in either high school or college.

[Click here for link to scholarship application.](#)

Application deadline is May 2, 2022 at 5 pm

Please send completed applications to ecantrell@flintriverpresbytery.org

Our 2021 YAMI recipients thus far this year are as follows:

Ella Cole Alderman is a member of Northminster in Macon and a high school junior at Mount de Sales Academy. Ella Cole worked with elder Charlotte Nolan to plan and implement a Women's Retreat in November 2021. 45 women of all ages enjoyed the leadership of Rev. Dr. Lisa Nichols Hickman, author of four books and regular retreat leader. The group included members from Forsyth and Northminster churches. Ella Cole committed 20 hours of service to this event, and therefore will receive a \$1000 scholarship for college.

Eleanor Temple Hawkins is also a member of Northminster and a high school junior at Mount de Sales Academy. Ella collected recycled bulletins from various congregations throughout Flint River and then repurposed the paper by creating bulletin covers for the liturgical seasons of Advent, Christmas and Epiphany. Her art was made available to all pastors to use as bulletin covers. Ella committed 40 hours of service to this artistic project and therefore will receive a \$2000 scholarship for college.